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British government
wracked by crisis

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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Thousands in L.A. rally to back immigrant rights

BY HARRY RING
AND VANESSA KNAPTON

LOS ANGELES — Thousands of demonstrators — chanting, singing, cheering and clapping — marched through downtown Los Angeles May 28, to demand equal rights for immigrants and a halt to immigrant-bashing.

The demonstrators, the majority of them Latinos, marched up Broadway, a busy shopping district of the city. From the upstairs windows of the decaying buildings, garment workers stopped work and hung out of their sweatshop windows to watch the march. The demonstrators poured into City Hall park and at its peak, the crowd overflowed onto the adjoining streets.

Estimates of the turnout varied from 10,000 to 45,000. Even the realistic estimate of 10,000 is substantially higher than at any previous immigrants' rights march in recent years. Last February, a similar demonstration drew some 2,000 people. A few months earlier, pro-immigrant rights marchers numbered 400-500.

In several interviews, demonstrators explained why they were there. A worker from Mexico City came to the protest "because I realized the attack against immigrants is getting stronger, getting bigger. If the people stay quiet, it is going to get worse. With our presence here, we will make a difference."

"This march shows the people are united," a woman from Guatemala said. "There is strength when we see we are not alone. It is empowering to feel you are part of a big group."

The May 28 protest was sponsored by the broadest coalition of forces yet. It was initi-



Militant/Harry Ring
Turnout at Los Angeles immigrant rights march was estimated from 10,000 to 45,000.

ated at a statewide meeting last February, which established the California Latino Civil Rights Network.

Participants included representatives of immigrant rights groups, immigrant social service organizations, chapters of the Chicano student association MEChA, the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund, and the National Association of Elected Latino Officials.

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) made organizing space available for the demonstration. Alicia Lepe, director of the ILGWU Immigration Project, was assigned to help build it.

KMEX, a Spanish-language TV station with a large Latino audience, played an important role in building the action.

Maria Gutiérrez, a member of the KMEX
Continued on Page 6

2,000 garment workers strike Leslie Fay

BY JOANNE KENDALL

NEWARK, New Jersey — Some 1,800 members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Florida, and

Ohio, struck Leslie Fay Inc. — one of the nation's largest manufacturers of women's clothing — at 6:00 a.m. on June 1. This is the first strike against the company in its 50-year history. The company has been operating under bankruptcy protection since April 1993.

The ILGWU paper, *Justice*, reported in April that Leslie Fay was threatening to shut down all production in the United States and transfer the work to factories in other countries.

One hundred fifty of the 200 ILGWU Local 145 members maintained a spirited picket line at the SASSCO warehouse, a division of Leslie Fay, in Secaucus, New Jersey. Strikers reported that no more than 10 workers crossed the picket line on the first day of the strike. A dozen trucks were turned away. Three trucks made it past the pickets with the help of police in riot gear, who clubbed three strikers. Outraged union members immediately went to the mayor's office to file a complaint.

Carrying picket signs and wearing T-shirts in Spanish, Vietnamese,

and English that read "Leslie Fay Stay in the USA," strikers appealed to passing trucks and cars for support. One trucker stopped to say that he was a Teamster and would support the strike.

Ouber Lizano, a SASSCO striker, said, "We did not choose to strike — the company forced us to." Leslie Fay was trying to

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Militant/Barbara Graham
Strikers picket Leslie Fay in Secaucus, New Jersey.

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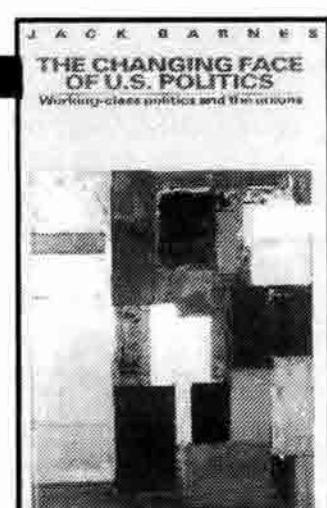
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Komatsu sees profits plunge

Komatsu, the world's second largest manufacturer of construction equipment, saw its pre-tax profits fall by 55 percent last year, the worst performance for the Japanese giant in 10 years. Domestic sales dropped by 1.8 percent due to a slump in construction. The strong yen significantly reduced sales in the weakened European markets causing the company's total sales to fall by 3.1 percent.

Komatsu, like many other Japanese manufacturers, is planning a major reorganization of its global operations, including shifting production abroad to reduce costs.

Clinton renews China trade deal

President Bill Clinton said May 25 that the U.S. government would continue to extend its "most-favored-nation" (MFN) trading status to China. During the 1992 presidential campaign, Clinton accused then-president George Bush of ignoring human rights abuses in China by granting the trading status, which is given to most other countries. Until recently, Clinton maintained he was going to cancel the MFN status and place sanctions on Chinese goods.

U.S. businesses cheered the decision. "The door to China is open wider. Now U.S. firms can go full speed," said Kentucky Fried Chicken president John Cranor. An article in the May 27 *Wall Street Journal* pointed out that trade tensions with China will increase as U.S. companies fight for an increasing share of the Chinese market. "Human rights has been a convenient fig leaf," Raymond Ch'ien, chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, said. "Now that you've removed the fig leaf doesn't mean the issues will go away."

Boeing, Beijing in \$5 billion deal

Boeing, a U.S.-based aircraft company, is wrapping up a whopping order from China valued at more than \$5 billion. The negotiations are expected to produce orders for 50 commercial planes including 15 of the company's new twin-engine 777 jetliners. Boeing counts on China for about 14 percent of its commercial aircraft orders, a tremendous boost for the company given the severely reduced global market. Other world airline markets are pulling slowly out of a recession



Two thousand striking social workers and their supporters protest in Tel Aviv in mid May. The workers are demanding a pay increase. Sign reads "The government is hanging our wages."

while China's airline industry is expanding at 9 percent to 11 percent annually.

Kiev rejects Crimea constitution

The Ukrainian government is demanding the Crimean Parliament rescind its constitution. Kiev set a deadline of May 30 and sent some 20 armored personnel carriers to an area near the Crimean capital of Simferopol. Crimea, a Russian possession since the 18th century, was given to Ukraine by Nikita Krushchev in 1954. It remains the base for more than 50,000 Ukrainian troops and significant Russian forces. Most Crimeans voted for an independent Ukraine in 1991, but under the impact of a deep economic crisis in Ukraine, many people are now demanding closer ties to Russia. On May 20, the regional parliament in Crimea voted to restore its own constitution, originally passed in 1992. Moscow and Kiev are also fighting over the division of the Black Sea Fleet,

which is based in Crimea.

Russian economy 'close to crash'

Russian president Boris Yeltsin says that the country's economy is on the verge of collapse. Industrial production was down 25 percent in the first three months of this year, relative to the same time last year. The economics ministry is predicting a 45 percent drop in the electrical and electronics industry, 35 percent in light industry, and 34.8 per cent in petrochemicals, in the second quarter.

Unemployment, now at 4 million, is expected to rise another million in the next three months. This would bring the total to 7 percent of the working population.

Former Communist Party wins Hungary elections

The Socialist Party of Hungary won the final round of parliamentary elections May 29. The Socialist Party, which used to be the ruling pro-Moscow Communist Party, won seats in all sections of the country. Unofficial results give them 209 seats in the 386-seat Parliament. The alliance for Free Democrats won 70 seats and the Democratic Forum, which has ruled for the last four years, had 37 seats.

Czech plant may fire U.S. bosses

Tatra, a Czech truck maker, may ask the U.S. management company GSR Inc. to resign after a dismal year, which saw the truck firm lose more than \$24 million. Seven of Tatra's 11 board members favor the ouster. The U.S. company took over management of Tatra in 1993, promising to make it profitable within two years. Among its first steps was laying off 1,600 workers. In spite of this, sales plummeted

over the following year and, by April, the plant had built only 800 trucks, far short of the projected goal of 4,500. Edward Snyder, director of the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan, said that the managers ran into a problem since working people in the Czech Republic found the mass job cuts "very hard to take." The institute offers technical assistance to several companies in Eastern Europe. An official from GSR blamed the dismal year on the "world economy."

New Jersey court rejects bias law

In a unanimous decision, the New Jersey Supreme Court threw out the state's hate-crime statutes May 26. The court ruled that while painting swastikas and burning crosses are reprehensible acts, the messages they send are protected by the constitution. The laws had made placing such symbols illegal if it exposed the victim to "threats of violence, contempt, or hatred" based on race, color, creed, or religion.

The New Jersey court also voted to uphold a 1990 law that allows harsher penalties for crimes based on race, religion, or other personal characteristics.

Nicaragua FSLN reelects Ortega

Delegates to the May 20-23 congress of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) reelected former Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega as secretary general of the organization. Ortega defeated Henry Ruiz, who, together with former vice president Sergio Ramírez, heads a public faction in the FSLN. Ramírez was not re-elected to the National Directorate, the Front's central leadership body.

In addition to Ortega, the 15-person directorate includes Bayardo Arce, Mónica Baltodano, Tomás Borge, Lumberto Cambell, Luis Carrión, Mirna Cunningham, Benigna Mendiola, René Nuñez, Henry Ruiz, Dora María Téllez, Víctor Hugo Tinoco, Víctor Tirado, René Vivas, and Dorotea Wilson. Jaime Wheelock, a long-time member of the directorate and former minister of agriculture, is enrolled in a postgraduate program at Harvard University in the United States. He asked that his name not be considered. The congress also elected a 135-member Sandinista Assembly.

— MAURICE WILLIAMS

'Militant' biweekly summer schedule

The *Militant* will begin its biweekly summer schedule with next week's issue, no. 24, dated June 27, which will be printed and mailed June 9. The other bi-weekly issues will be dated July 11, July 25, August 8, and August 22. Weekly publication will resume with issue no. 29 dated August 29, which will be printed August 18. We urge distributors to take the biweekly schedule into consideration when ordering bundles over the summer period.

THE MILITANT

Open the borders to Haitian refugees

The U.S. government claims its brutal embargo of Haiti will help the toilers there. But meanwhile, the U.S. Coast Guard tracks down Haitian refugees on the high seas and forcibly returns them to Port-au-Prince. The 'Militant' explains why working people around the world should reject the embargo and demand the United States and other countries unconditionally open their borders to the refugees. Don't miss a single issue!



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Haitian gov't arrests fleeing refugees as Clinton returns them

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In a move aimed at currying favor in Washington, Émil Jonassaint, the Haitian military's handpicked replacement president, ordered a crackdown on people seeking to flee the country. Scores of individuals were arrested May 23. This occurs as the Clinton administration continues to intercept and forcibly repatriate boatloads of refugees attempting to escape repression by the ruling dictators on the island.

The U.S. president had announced a cosmetic change in policy May 7. He promised that Haitian refugees prior to being sent back would now be interviewed at sea to determine their eligibility for pursuing political asylum claims in the United States. But as of the end of May, some 1,100 Haitians were returned without receiving hearings of any kind.

Clinton's newly announced policy is one that the U.S. government had in place prior to the September 1991 coup that ousted Haiti's democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. More than 20,000 Haitians were interdicted and screened aboard vessels in the 10-year period prior to the coup, but only 28 of them were actually allowed to pursue asylum claims.

Without much success, Washington has been attempting to establish a third country

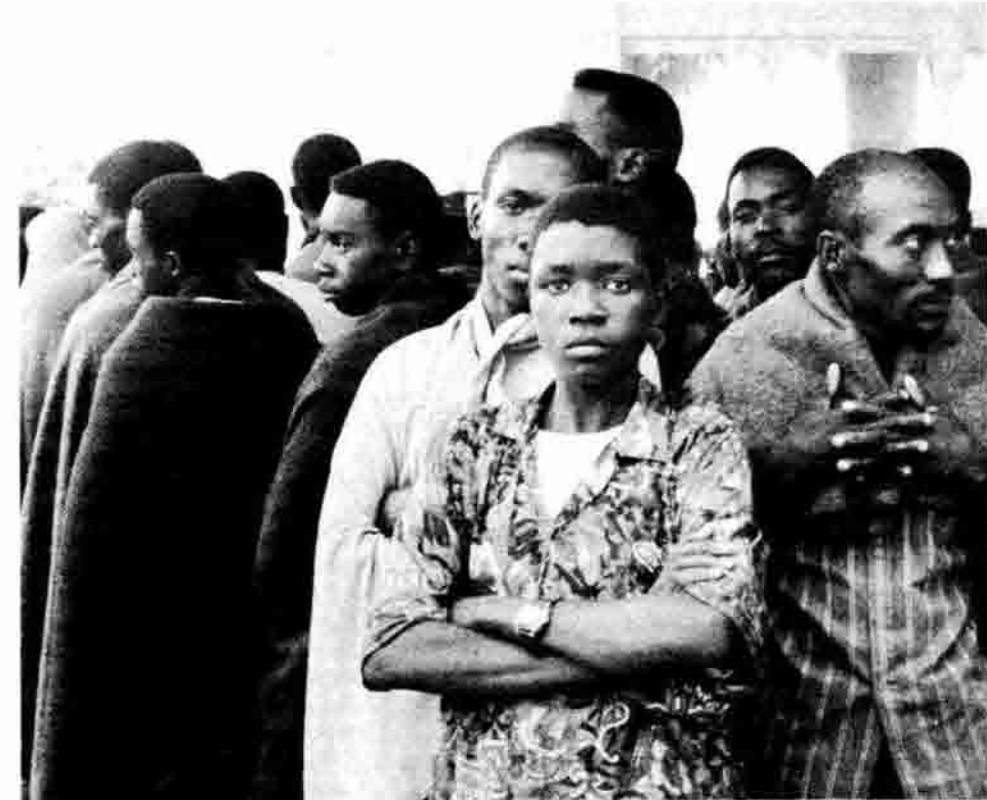
in the Caribbean to serve as a processing center. The administration initially raised the idea of stationing a floating refugee camp by the Turks and Caicos islands, a British dependency. U.S. government officials now appear close to reaching an agreement with the government of Jamaica about setting up operations there.

On May 24 the U.S. House of Representatives approved, 223 to 201, a nonbinding resolution urging joint action with the Organization of American States and the United Nations to turn the Haitian island of La Gonâve into an area where refugees could be sent.

Embargo's class bias

A tougher UN-sponsored embargo of Haiti, which took effect May 21, is adding to the hardships facing Haitian working people while hardly affecting the lifestyles of the country's military rulers and their wealthy supporters. This is in addition to a seven-month-long oil and arms embargo imposed last October. U.S. warships are primarily responsible for enforcing these sanctions, which now cover all trade with Haiti except for medicines and certain foods.

"The embargo will never touch me," an unnamed Haitian businessman told the *Washington Post*. "We have cash reserves."



Militant/Jim Kendrick

Haitian refugees being unloaded from ship interdicted by U.S. Coast Guard. UN-sponsored embargo hurts workers, not military rulers and the wealthy.

The sanctions have also been a profits bonanza for those involved in smuggling gasoline and narcotics into the country.

During this period about 1.5 million gallons of fuel has arrived in Haiti from across its border with the Dominican Republic, according to the *Christian Science Monitor*. Under pressure from Washington the Dominican government now says they will step

up enforcement of the embargo. U.S. officials also hinted that they are in negotiations with Dominican representatives about sending weapons and troops to the Dominican-Haitian border.

Now that gasoline is more expensive, a number of wealthy families simply pay \$600 to convert their cars to run on propane gas, a product not banned because it is widely used for cooking. Instead of paying \$10 a gallon for gasoline, they pay only \$1 for an equivalent amount of propane.

Haitian working people fare much worse. In the last six months, the price of staples such as rice and beans has more than doubled, while transport costs have also risen sharply.

In the last week of May, more than 50 factories closed down in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, throwing another 15,000 people out of work.

U.S. warships patrol Haiti's coast

The embargo is being enforced by nine U.S. warships along with a frigate each from Canada and Argentina. The U.S. Navy contingent now includes two high-speed shallow-draft vessels known as Coastal Patrol Craft. Each carries eight Navy SEALs, or commandos, that will focus on intercepting smaller, faster-moving ships coming near Haiti's 672-mile coastline.

The U.S. ships patrolling the area enter *Continued on Page 12*

Clinton renews threat of N. Korea sanctions

BY PAT SMITH

Washington once again threatened sanctions against North Korea at the end of May, just one week after announcing plans to reopen talks between the two countries to discuss strengthening economic and political ties. The Clinton administration canceled a round of these negotiations last March, accusing Pyongyang of not complying with an earlier agreement to allow inspections of seven nuclear sites.

Washington has repeated claims that the North Korean government may have produced nuclear bombs and may plan to use the fuel that is being removed from a power reactor to build more. The White House demanded that Pyongyang set aside 300 of the 8,000 fuel rods from specific parts of the reactor so that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) could take measurements in the future to determine if nuclear materials were diverted.

The U.S. government warned the North Korean government that if it did not comply, not only will the talks be canceled, but Washington would press ahead with its demand for international economic sanctions. "The [sanctions] issue is on the front burner," an unnamed U.S. official told the *Washington Post*. The North Korean government considers such sanctions an act of war.

The United Nations Security Council unanimously approved a statement May 30 urging Pyongyang to preserve the fuel rods for testing. The statement carries less weight than a resolution and contains no explicit threat of sanctions. But this was the best Washington could muster given the Chinese government's refusal to approve a trade ban against North Korea.

The North Korean government granted visas to five inspectors chosen by the IAEA to oversee the replacement of the fuel rods in early May but would not permit random testing.

A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) said if the atomic energy agency refused its terms for inspection, North Korea would move ahead on replacing the fuel rods on schedule because delays would pose risks to safety and security.

"We have no reason whatsoever to keep our peaceful nuclear activities frozen indefinitely only to sustain economic losses," Kim Yong Nam, vice premier of the Administration Council at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, wrote to the IAEA. Kim notified the agency of Pyongyang's intention to begin replacement of the rods in compliance with "the independent and sovereign rights of our State, which nobody is entitled to violate."

Kim said, "If the United States had not deployed over 1,000 nuclear weapons in combat-ready array on the Korean peninsula and had not posed a nuclear threat against the DPRK through its large-scale nuclear war exercises such as the 'Team Spirit' military maneuvers, there would not have been any nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula."

Washington's unaccounted plutonium

While Washington accuses North Korea of not allowing international monitoring of its nuclear program, the U.S. Natural Resources Defense Council revealed last month that the U.S. government is unable to account for up to 1.5 metric tons of its plutonium, enough to make 300 nuclear weapons. U.S. officials hastily raised their production estimates to erase the gap. The

discrepancy was uncovered through the examination of previously secret documents that also revealed the U.S. Energy Department had conducted 204 more nuclear blasts than it had admitted to and had conducted 800 radiation tests on humans over four decades.

Seventy kilograms of unregistered pure powder plutonium were discovered recently at a reactor of the Tokai nuclear fuel plant in Japan, according to a May 16 press release from the DPRK Permanent Mission to the United Nations. The statement said Tokyo was pressuring North Korea in order to conceal its own nuclear arms development. "Facts clearly show Japan is a culprit [that] deliberately violated the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The plutonium concealment also causes grave doubt as to the impartiality of IAEA inspections."

Public workers in Guyana hold nine-day strike

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In mid-May, thousands of public workers in Guyana conducted a nine-day strike, virtually shutting down state operations. The action marked the biggest labor protest since People's Progressive Party leader Cheddi Jagan won the presidency in Guyana's October 1992 general election.

Guyana is an English-speaking nation of about 750,000 people located on the northeast shoulder of South America.

Teachers, workers at the state light and power company, court clerks, air traffic controllers, and ferry boat operators walked off their jobs. Shutting ferry service means cutting off land access to the country's eastern and western regions.

The walkout was called by a four-union alliance made up of the Guyana Public Service Union, the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union, the Union of Allied and Agricultural Workers, and the National Union of Public Service Employees. Together they organize the vast majority of Guyana's 20,000 public workers.

The strike was organized in response to austerity measures being imposed by Jagan's government under prodding from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The walkout occurred after the government ignored a 72-hour ultimatum from the unions, requesting a return to discussions on wages for public employees. Prior to this stalemate, the Jagan administration had unilaterally imposed a new pay scale that froze wages for a number of workers and cut take home pay for others.

Prior to winning the elections, Jagan had

promised a 300 percent pay hike to government workers, many of whose wages are quite low. Primary school teachers, for example, earn less than \$100 a month. Once in office, however, the Jagan administration abandoned this commitment.

Jagan to continue privatizations

Jagan, who served as prime minister from 1957 to 1964 when the country was still under British rule, had earlier described himself as a Marxist. From 1953 to 1964 he was the victim of an 11-year effort by the British and U.S. governments to prevent him from occupying his government post, because of his stated socialist views.

Jagan's triumph in the October 1992 elections made the People's Progressive Party the ruling party for the first time since Guyana won independence in 1966. His electoral victory ended the reign of the People's National Congress, which had run the government for the previous 26 years.

Upon assuming the presidency, Jagan made clear that he would continue to implement his predecessor's policy of privatizing the country's biggest mineral and energy industries, as the IMF has been demanding. In December, Jagan declared an end to free university education in the country.

Like most countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, Guyana owes massive debts to banks in imperialist centers. The government of Guyana is currently spending some \$130 million dollars just to cover the interest on the country's \$2.1 billion debt. These payments amount to about

60 percent of the country's annual revenue.

But government demands for further concessions by workers to continue paying interest on the foreign debt and benefit the local capitalist class is fueling discontent and protests. A month prior to the public workers' strike, for example, nearly 2,000 workers at the state's bauxite mining company in eastern Guyana stopped production in a dispute with management over plans to cut vacation allowances and medical benefits.

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Government in Britain wracked by crisis

Debate sharpens over divergence from monetary, political union in Europe

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

MANCHESTER, England — As the June 9 date for elections for the European parliament looms, the government of the United Kingdom has been plunged into yet another crisis.

Wracked by a succession of "sex scandals," which ended in the resignation of a number of government ministers at the beginning of the year, the government has run into difficulties on almost every major political issue and is shaken by a leadership crisis.

The government had outlined its legislative program for this parliament at the Conservative Party conference last October. Prime Minister John Major coined the theme "back to basics" as the political framework, stressing "family values." Home Secretary Michael Howard reported on a central plank of government intentions: a tough law and order anticrime law, which, among other things, threatens to end the right of silence for prisoners in police custody and thus the presumption of innocence for the accused. The deregulation of health and safety rules was to be the government's next contribution to assist the manufacturers and other businessmen as they drive to increase profits by worsening working conditions and lowering living standards.

The employers have made genuine progress on this front. While the cyclical recession in Britain's economy has come to an end, the annual increase in earnings by factory workers fell to a new 30-year low of 4 percent in the first 10 months of 1993. In the year to November average earnings throughout the economy were growing at an underlying rate of 3 percent, and in the three months to November, pay settlements averaged 2 percent, unchanged for the fourth consecutive month. With inflation running at 2.6 percent, this means a drop in real wages for millions of workers on top of the significant reduction in social services over the last decade.

'Sweatshop' pay

A survey carried out by the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers revealed that employers were taking advantage of the government's abolition of wages councils, which set minimum wages in specific industries, to pay "sweatshop" rates. The report cited many examples in the retail sector. Wage rates for trainee hairdressers, for example, have been pushed down to £1 (US\$1.50) an hour. Two other features emerging from the survey was the absence of overtime rates for low-paid workers and the growth in jobs offering less than 16 hours a week, preventing low-paid workers from claiming family credits and other social benefits.

Set against such a background of improving economic prospects for the bosses, Lon-



Police clash with students in February outside BBC World Service headquarters in London. Students were protesting government cutbacks in funds for education and student loans. Cuts in social services and attacks on workers' living standard are aimed at boosting profit margin of Britain's capitalist rulers.

don's *Financial Times* concluded in an editorial last November that "the British government is in better shape at the start of the new parliamentary session."

Seven months later, however, Major's 'back to basics' campaign is discredited. A related measure, the Child Support Agency, established in an attempt to scapegoat fathers for the state's refusal to provide adequate funding for single mothers is meeting growing opposition even from its former supporters. An ideological campaign targeting single mothers has been pushed back. The government has dropped the much-heralded deregulation of health and safety. Even the 'anticrime' offensive — which continues apace with the arming of the police with new-style batons and handguns — has run into difficulties.

Two enquiries into foreign policy issues with the potential of implicating the government at the highest level in duplicity — the Scott enquiry into arms sales to Iraq, and a House of Commons enquiry into aid to Malaysia being linked to armaments trade — are simmering in the background as potentially embarrassing scandals for the Tories.

The Conservative Party received its worst ever mid-term election results in the local government elections and is anticipating a similar result in the ballot for the European Parliament. The main opposition party, the social democratic Labour Party, did not gain

much from the Tories' electoral setbacks. On all major policy questions, the Labour Party has been converging with the Conservatives as capitalist politics has shifted to the right. This was exemplified by Labour's abstention on the crime bill. The biggest victor in the local elections was the Liberal Democrats.

The election results definitely accelerated the crisis facing the Tories. The most serious opposition to the government's course comes from within the Conservative Party itself, with open calls now for John Major to be replaced. Press speculation abounds as to whether the prime minister can survive. "John Major nears the zero option," commented Mark Lawson in the May 19 *Independent*.

Such is the pressure on the prime minister that he has been forced to publicly state he does not intend to resign for the moment. The only bright spots for the Tory leader recently have been the issue of Northern Ireland — where his moves aimed at stabilizing the situation have met with the approval of most sections of the ruling class — and the death of Labour Party leader John Smith, which has provided some respite from the onslaught (see accompanying article).

Doom and gloom during recovery

While the recovery continues, such is the depressed state of the British economy that even the most minor negative index has the capacity to create doom and gloom. The day after the U.S. Federal Reserve raised interest rates by 0.25 percent in April, £15 billion was wiped off the British stocks.

May's economic statistics revealed continuing progress for the employers but prompted the *Financial Times* to comment in its May 21 issue: "No joy in a good news week." The paper cited concern over the possibility of growing inflation in the near future, the prospect of a new trend of rising wages, an associated decline in British industry's competitiveness, and continuing low investment.

The problem facing the capitalist class is that while the employers have made progress in pushing back the labor movement, they still have not crushed the working class in any major confrontation. As a result, workers are able to take advantage of even a minor upturn in the economy to push for higher wages sending fear into the employers. According to the Department of Employment, bonuses and rising overtime helped push earnings significantly higher in March, by 4 percent compared to the same month in 1993. The highest increase was in the production sector where earnings were up 5 percent from a year earlier. Meanwhile productivity has remained fairly flat in the last three months, and is only 2.6 percent higher than in March 1993.

"We have got to get the message over to business that they have to control their costs,

especially their wage costs, if we are to remain competitive," commented employment secretary David Hunt recently.

Confederation of British Industry director Robbie Gilbert signaled new cutbacks when he insisted in an interview that "employers will have to devote more attention to the whole pay package, including bonuses and allowance, not just [wage] settlements."

The failure of the employers' offensive to break the back of the unions combined with the continuing weakness of the British economy prevents the British rulers from taking measures that simultaneously allow them to compete with their European rivals — where the bulk of their trade is — and pursue measures to back up their investments in other parts of the world.

Previously, London has been able to square this circle through its special relationship of cooperation with the U.S. government. But Washington is less able to provide the necessary backing.

'Europe,' a term of abuse

Similar pressures are pulling all the European Union (EU) member states, especially those with weaker economies, away from one another as they are forced to pursue competing national economic interests. In the middle of a world depression, capitalist Europe is not coming together into a political and economic union, it is coming apart.

"While Europe is in the gutter," proclaimed the headline of an editorial in the May 21 *Economist*. "These days it is hard, terribly hard, to be a proud European," the business weekly's editors whined. "Americans may grumble and gripe, and feel embarrassed by their president's peccadilloes, but at least their economy is growing rapidly, their businesses getting sharper by the day. Europeans, by contrast, feel they have little to be cheerful about — little, even, to look forward to.

"Their economies are faring badly, their dole queues stubbornly long," the editorial continued. "Even in Britain where growth has resumed and unemployment is falling the mood remains despondent. Europe's powerhouse, Germany, is going through its toughest shake-up in four decades. To Germany's east there is frailty, and beyond it an even more fragile but irascible Russia. Ideas of a common foreign policy lie wounded in Bosnia's wake." The magazine's editors drew the conclusion that "Europe" is perilously close to becoming a term of abuse throughout the European Union."

Indeed, the prospects for realizing the more ambitious goals stated in the Maastricht treaty, monetary union and common foreign policy, are becoming remoter by the month. The objective of a single currency, already battered by the turmoil of 1992 that led to the devaluation of sterling and a number of other currencies, has taken a further blow with the imminent devaluation of the Greek drachma, which interest rates of up to 500 percent have failed to stave off. Now the prospect of a Franco-German conflict over currency policy — at the very heart of the EU — threatens the little that remains of the European Monetary Union.

French presidential candidate Jacques Chirac has made opposition to the 'strong franc' — until now a relatively stable support for the exchange rate mechanism, along with the German mark — a major campaigning theme. Others among the French rulers are echoing Chirac's theme. They are worried by the mobilizations of hundreds of thousands of workers, students, farmers, and fishermen to oppose the economic policies associated with maintaining the strong franc — such as unemployment of more than 12 percent, and youth unemployment of more than 20 percent.

French prime minister Edouard Balladur, previously identified with a "tight money" policy, has presided over the doubling of the state deficit as the working class has forced Paris to back off from repeated attempts to slash social programs and lay off thousands of state employees.

In the field of foreign policy, the former Yugoslavia stands as an epitaph to the convergence heralded by Maastricht and the talk of a new world order. In fact, for two

Continued on next page

Bosses heap praise on late British Labour Party leader

MANCHESTER, England — In death, Labour Party leader John Smith has been accorded the adulation of government and ruling-class circles alike. One newspaper columnist accurately described the morning-after coverage in the media as presenting Smith as a "genius, hero, and moral paragon." "The last British statesman," beamed the headline of the May 21 *Independent*, reporting on what was almost a state funeral, attended by the current and past prime ministers and political leaders from other countries in the European Union. To underline the point Smith was even buried in a special place; alongside Scottish kings in the Hebridean island of Iona.

"Just what are they trying to say?" many workers asked. After all, the same people who heaped such praise on Smith in death, shared a common refrain throughout the two years he occupied the post of Labour leader: "There is no opposition to the government."

But, of course, the political leaders and their big business backers weren't talking in their obituaries to the dead. They were

talking to the living. They were charitable to Smith for faithfully representing ruling-class interests. Smith had even more effectively continued on the course of his predecessor, Neil Kinnock — that of distancing the Labour Party from the labor movement and, in so doing, rendering Labour a safe option should it be required to form a government. John Smith "made Labour electable" was how the right-wing tabloid, the *Sun*, put it.

The message was simple. The next Labour leader needs to do what Smith was doing, only more so. The best contender for the job is one who will make Labour even less a party associated in any way with working-class interests than it has already become. It was up to *Financial Times* political columnist Joe Rogaly to dot the i's and cross the t's. "This is getting dangerous," Rogaly said. "If Mr Tony Blair is chosen to succeed Mr John Smith, we shall have to consider voting Labour," a prospect Rogaly characterized as "a break in the gloom that began to descend after April 1988, when Thatcherism peaked out." — J.S.

New International Fund needs rapid collections

BY SARA LOBMAN

With almost \$65,000 to collect in the remaining four weeks of the New International Fund, now is the time for supporters around the world to kick into high gear. There is every indication that it is possible to complete this campaign successfully — collecting \$100,000 by the June 28 deadline.

While only \$5,000 in contributions arrived in New York this week, supporters of *New International* in five cities — Chicago; Pittsburgh; Twin Cities, Minnesota; and Auckland and Christchurch, New Zealand — raised their goals by a total of almost \$4,000. In addition, supporters in Wellington, New Zealand, have asked to be on the chart with a goal of \$100. Total pledges are now at \$105,855, significantly over the \$100,000 goal. The big job now is to get those checks coming in.

In Pittsburgh, supporters of the Marxist magazine raised their goal from \$3,500 to \$4,250. Their fund campaign got a boost when several contributors got hired in a local steel mill and quickly raised their pledges. Steve Craine reports that pledges have already topped the new goal. Supporters are now working to increase the number of people giving to the fund. "We were so excited by raises from a few long-time supporters of the magazine that we haven't really spoken to a lot of new readers," Craine said.

Greg McCartan says that in Washington, D.C., supporters of the *New International* face the opposite challenge. More than 35 people in that city have made pledges to the drive, but their total still falls \$900 short of the goal. Fund promoters have drawn up a list of an additional 30 people to contact and are also getting back to people who have already given to see if they can raise their pledges.

To make the drive goals, supporters will need to mobilize to meet the double challenge of reaching out for new pledges while at the same time moving rapidly to collect those already made. More than \$16,000 needs to arrive in the fund office each week to make the drive on time — more than three times this week's collection.

Fund supporters in some cities report that new readers — first introduced to the Marxist magazine during the recent international circulation campaign — are interested in giving to the fund. One student at Kean College in New Jersey, for example, recently made a \$10 pledge. She first saw the *New International* when a team of supporters visited her school during the recent international circulation campaign. She bought a single issue of the *Militant* and a copy of *New International* no. 8 with the article on "Che Guevara, Cuba, and the Road to Socialism," which she used to prepare a term paper for a class.

Linda Marcus, who helps organize the fund campaign in Newark, New Jersey, reported that the young woman liked the *Militant* so much, she decided to subscribe several weeks later. "When I called her up this past week to make sure she was receiving the subscription, to let her know about some of the political programs she could attend here in Newark, and to ask her to contribute to the fund, she quickly decided to make a pledge," Marcus said.

The fund will help pay for 10 new issues of the magazine — three each in English, Spanish, and French, and one in Swedish. *New International* no. 9 on "The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution," for example, which was published in English last April, is being translated into Spanish and French.

With an all-out effort in the final weeks of the drive the \$100,000 goal can be met. To help get on this kind of battle footing, supporters of the Marxist magazine are urged to fax regular reports into the office reporting on money collected, pledges received, successful fund benefits, and any interesting anecdotes that might be useful for fund organizers around the world. In addition, to ensure that money collected can be put to immediate use and that the weekly chart is up to date, supporters are encouraged to send their contributions by express mail. Checks need to arrive in New York each week by Tuesday at noon, EDT.

New International Fund

| | Goal | Collected | Percent |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| UNITED STATES | | | |
| Philadelphia | 7,500 | 5,972 | 80% |
| Detroit | 3,900 | 2,120 | 54% |
| Twin Cities | 6,000 | 3,157 | 53% |
| New York | 6,500 | 3,419 | 53% |
| Pittsburgh | 4,250 | 2,118 | 50% |
| St. Louis | 3,000 | 1,305 | 44% |
| Seattle | 4,100 | 1,765 | 43% |
| San Francisco | 8,000 | 3,360 | 42% |
| Des Moines, IA | 3,000 | 1,210 | 40% |
| Atlanta | 3,250 | 1,275 | 39% |
| Washington, D.C. | 2,800 | 945 | 34% |
| Cleveland | 3,000 | 920 | 31% |
| Greensboro, NC | 1,500 | 400 | 27% |
| Newark | 5,500 | 1,274 | 23% |
| Brooklyn | 3,250 | 615 | 19% |
| Miami | 2,700 | 439 | 16% |
| Chicago | 7,030 | 1,095 | 16% |
| Birmingham, AL | 2,500 | 355 | 14% |
| Los Angeles | 6,750 | 935 | 14% |
| Boston | 4,000 | 405 | 10% |
| Houston | 3,200 | 225 | 7% |
| Morgantown, WV | 1,300 | 75 | 6% |
| Salt Lake City, UT | 4,000 | 2 | 0% |
| New Haven, CT | 500 | 0 | 0% |
| Portland, OR | — | 1,150 | 355 |
| Other | — | — | — |
| U.S. Total | 97,530 | 34,891 | 36% |
| NEW ZEALAND | 1,300 | 437 | 34% |
| Auckland | 750 | 375 | 50% |
| Christchurch | 450 | 28 | 6% |
| Wellington | 100 | 34 | 34% |
| CANADA | 3,600 | 35 | 0% |
| AUSTRALIA | 375 | 0 | 0% |
| BRITAIN | 2,250 | 0 | 0% |
| Manchester | 600 | 0 | 0% |
| London | 1,050 | 0 | 0% |
| Sheffield | 600 | 0 | 0% |
| FRANCE | 300 | 0 | 0% |
| SWEDEN | 500 | 0 | 0% |
| INT'L TOTAL | 105,855 | 35,363 | 35% |
| SHOULD BE | 100,000 | 60,000 | 60% |

Contribute to \$100,000 Fund for Marxist Magazine

New International, a magazine of Marxist politics and theory, has launched a \$100,000 fund to print a series of new issues of the journal, which will appear in English, Spanish, French, and Swedish.

The successful completion of this fund, which ends June 28, will enable these important publications to reach thousands of working-class fighters around the globe.

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COUNTRY _____ TELEPHONE _____

ORGANIZATION (for identification only) _____

Capitalist rulers in Britain wracked by crisis

Continued from previous page

years of war in Bosnia, there has been a stand-off between the governments of France and Germany, the two major imperialist powers in Europe directly involved in the conflict. Paris has favored a stronger foreign intervention under the United Nations banner. In an effort to pursue its national interests, the French government has provided the largest UN troop contingent in Bosnia. Bonn, consistent with its objective of increasing its investments and armaments in Croatia and of dominating central Europe — its historically traditional hinterland — as well as constrained by domestic disfavor to intervention, has been opposed. London, a NATO member like the government of Germany, has also provided a major UN troop contingent. The government of Greece on the other hand, the only EU member state in the Balkans with increasing economic interests in Bulgaria, Albania, and elsewhere in the region, has sided with the regime in Belgrade and has irked many other EU governments with its opposition to recognizing Macedonia.

The current proposals for settling the war — using the ever-violated cease-fire agreement between the regimes of Bosnia and Croatia in order to redraw the map of the war-torn areas — is being negotiated by the 'contact group.' This group, made up of officials from the United States, Russia, the European Union, and the United Nations, was set up in April following the NATO air strikes. The governments of France and Britain have both issued public statements threatening troop withdrawal in an attempt to win agreement for the carve-up of Bosnia. Meanwhile, the newly formed Italian government is considering raising claims on territory in the former Yugoslavia, around Trieste and the Dalmatian coast.

These developments confirm not only the lack of a common EU position but also the growing weight of Washington and Moscow in the first war on European soil



British prime minister John Major

since World War II.

Even on those areas where European Union members had supposedly reached agreement on moving in the direction of a single market there remain major obstacles. To date, there is no "free trade" within the EU borders in insurance, investment services, or telecommunications — all supposedly to have been in place by January 1, 1993.

Economic competition

In fact of the 230 measures that require national legislation to make the much-heralded goals of economic unity a reality, only 119 have been implemented in all 12 member states. Prospects of belated implementation appear limited. While the European Union is to be expanded by the admission of new member states, the current members are being forced into increasing competition with one another, not increasing convergence.

In a much publicized case here, for example, Germany is proposing to ban beef from the United Kingdom claiming the dangers of "mad cow disease" to consumers. Under a 1979 European Court of Justice rule, any foodstuff sold legally in one member state cannot be banned in another member state unless there is a risk to public health. The British government has responded that there is no evidence of a health danger and warned against unilateral action by Germany which would be in breach of EU rules.

What's clearly behind the positions of the respective governments, however, is not an increased concern for public health but the growth of British beef exports following the 1992 devaluation of the British pound and the lifting of a special protectionist tax the same year. UK beef production is also expected to rise 6 percent this year.

National governments have just as inevitably shown themselves guarded in the extreme to the EU rule, drawn up in 1988, allowing competition between companies from member states for public contracts. They have erected obstacles which have kept the non-national share of contracts — worth \$760 billion in 1990 — to 5 percent in public services and much less in public works.

A so-called environmental concern of the French government — to prevent the use of Orly airport in Paris by British Airways — was abandoned last week in return for British government concessions concerning access by French carriers to Heathrow airport in London. This had previously been denied on claims of congestion.

Such conflicts explain the British government's decision to exclude Germany from the activities to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings during World War II. Reminding working people in Britain of who London considers its principal adversary in the 20th century is a concern for the entire British capitalist class. At the same time, the gov-

ernment is continuing its fight against European Union social policy, concentrating on measures to "deregulate the jobs market."

Some forces within the Conservative Party wish to go further still. Chief secretary to the Treasury, Michael Portillo, stated in a recent television interview that he was opposed to a single European currency. Portillo, openly touted as a contender for the Conservative Party leadership should Major be given the push, has made a succession of speeches targeting "foreigners."

These moves reflect broader concern within ruling circles. At the annual convention of a prominent employers' organization, the Institute of Directors, the EU was condemned as wasteful and protectionist. Lord Young, chairman of Cable & Wireless, counterposed the "lost causes" of the European Union with the openings for British capitalism in Asia. John Neill, chief executive of Unipart, warned that Britain and the rest of Europe could be losers in the so-called global economic war. He said that countries in Europe have the highest cost labor market on earth with the most expensive welfare system and the shortest working hours. He urged a turn for investment to Southeast Asia and the Third World with its "low pay, no welfare costs, and a population hungry for a western lifestyle."

Labor news in the 'Militant'

The Militant stays on top of the most important developments in the labor movement. It has correspondents who work in the mines, mills, and shops where the events are breaking. You won't miss any of it if you subscribe. See the ad on page 2 of this issue for subscription rates.

Immigrant rights

Continued from front page
staff, headed the coalition's media committee. There was substantial pre-demonstration publicity, particularly in the Spanish-language media.

Members of the Catholic clergy were also active in urging support for the demonstration.

Labor participation

The action was endorsed by a meeting of the delegates of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. A representative of the county federation participated in the kickoff press conference.

Groups of unionists in the demonstration included some 200 members of the ILGWU and of the union's Justice Center for immigrant workers.

Striking ILGWU members from UNI Hosiery participated in the march. Some of these workers had been fired when they resisted low wages and miserable working conditions. The boss then suddenly "realized" they did not have proper documents and dismissed them.

In an interview, one UNI Hosiery striker said about 100 workers have been out since March 6. He had worked at UNI Hosiery for six years at minimum wage. The bosses constantly pushed for more production and gave no vacations or benefits. At times, they would even prod workers with a screwdriver when they did something "wrong." When workers asked for a raise, the boss replied that company rules did not allow that. The second time workers asked for a raise, they were fired. Everyone else stopped work then and walked out. The garment workers joined the ILGWU and declared a strike.

Representatives from the AFL-CIO Labor Council for Latin American Advancement carried a banner and marched along with groups from the United Electrical Workers Local 421, and the United Teachers of Los Angeles. A group of workers marched under the banner of the International Association of Machinists Lodge 700. There was a group from the Southern California Trades Women's Network, which is made up of women who have broken into nontraditional crafts.

The marchers ranged in age from preteens to the elderly. About half of the marchers were women, a major gain over previous demonstrations. Several gray-haired women marched with a sign declaring, "Women support immigration rights." Behind them was a banner of the Association of Salvadoran women (ADEMUSA). There were a good number of couples with their children in strollers. One trio carried a sign saying, "We hate racism in America."

A range of immigrant rights groups and immigrant social service agencies were represented. These included El Rescate, One-Stop Immigration, Pro-Immigration Mobilization Coalition, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, and the California Immigrant Workers Association, an AFL-CIO sponsored organization.

Hundreds of the marchers carried signs declaring, "Proposition One — vote yes." This was in reference to a mass petition drive being conducted by the Proposition One Coalition. The group's aim is to obtain 1 million signatures demanding that the amnesty granted to eligible undocumented immigrants who were here before 1982 be

extended to 1992 and "that the rights and benefits of citizenship be immediately granted to all legalized eligible immigrants." Several million legal residents have been waiting for years to obtain the citizenship rights that they have qualified for. There is no immediate plan to get this proposition on the state ballot.

Immigrant bashing

The demonstrators carried a multitude of signs and banners. Many of them were



D.C. Wood

Participants in Freedom to Travel Campaign show off passports that were returned in April. U.S. Customs officials had confiscated the passports and threatened to prosecute the activists after their return from Cuba in October 1993. "The goal of the campaign is to get travel restrictions to Cuba completely lifted," said coordinator Pam Montanaro. The group is organizing another trip for June 23-30.

aimed at California's Republican governor, Pete Wilson, whose strident immigrant-bashing has become the most odious symbol of the campaign by capitalist politicians against immigrants. He has called for troops to shut down the border and for denying medical benefits to undocumented immigrants and education to their children.

While the Democratic party has been more moderate in its language, it too has been equally uncompromising in its demand for a

major curb on immigrant rights.

Many marchers made their own placards. One carried a sign saying, "Stop the repression, we are also human beings." Another added, "Human rights now." One sign declared, "Stop immigrant bashing."

A woman from El Salvador angrily stated, "They want to cut any possibility to receive medical care. What does that mean? If I get shot or have a life-threatening illness, and go to the county hospital, they won't see me? Will they really just let me bleed to death and die? Because I wasn't born on this soil and don't have papers, my life is worth nothing to these people? Of course, they don't mind if I clean their houses for very little money. They will grant me that right."

The rally at City Hall park heard representatives of the major organizations in the sponsoring coalition and a range of supporters. Juan José Gutiérrez of One-Stop Immigration chaired the rally. The opening speaker, Fabián Nuñez of the Alliance for Immigrant Rights of Pomona, declared, "Why are we here? Why have we come out today? We are tired of being victims. While apartheid is buried in South Africa, it has been revived in America by racist politicians like Pete Wilson."

Another speaker added, "We want the constitution of America to be alive for immigrants. We want rights now! Justice now!"

Vanessa Knapton is a member of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee. Sandra Pucci and Barry Fatland from Los Angeles also contributed to this article.

Teachers fight gov't austerity in Canada

BY ROGER ANNIS
AND KATY LEROUGETEL

MONTREAL — Teachers in the eastern Canada province of Newfoundland will be voting in the coming days on a proposed settlement of their two-week-old strike.

The tentative agreement comes just days after a May 26 rally by more than 4,000 teachers and their supporters in St. John's, Newfoundland's capital. It was one of the largest labor rallies in the history of that province, whose population is 550,000.

"I'm here to support my union," said Linda Pike, one of the 8,100 strikers. "I'm proud to be here, I'm proud to be a teacher."

According to a spokesperson for the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers Association, teachers will lose some of their protection against layoffs under the proposed contract. But the government will have to reduce the number of layoffs and education cutbacks it planned to impose.

The strike has received messages of support from teachers' unions across Canada.

The central issue in the fight is the so-called 2 percent rule, which sets a limit of 2 percent per year on staff reductions permit-

ted in areas where student enrollment declines. The government wants to get rid of this protection.

More protests in Nova Scotia

The coalition of unions representing more than 50,000 public sector workers in Nova Scotia is organizing another protest rally June 6 in Halifax. It is campaigning against a 3 percent wage cut, a subsequent three-year wage freeze, and attacks on social services being imposed by that province's Liberal Party government.

Votes for coordinated strike actions against the cuts concluded May 23 in 17 unions and associations represented by the coalition. Teachers and nurses voted in favor of strike action, but the 15,000-member Nova Scotia Government Employees Union and a union representing 1,500 hospital workers in the Cape Breton region of the province turned down the proposal.

Following the votes, union officials proposed to the government that they would accept the 3 percent wage cut if the government agreed to negotiate on other matters, including the three-year wage freeze. The

government refused.

Eleven thousand teachers are planning a one-day strike June 7 if current talks fail. On May 26, the government introduced a law that would strip teachers of important protection against layoffs. The measure would give local school boards the power to reduce the workforce for financial reasons. Presently, they can only lay off because of declining enrollment. The government has delayed adoption of the law for two weeks, pending results of the negotiations.

A similar law introduced by the province's previous Conservative Party government several years ago was withdrawn following teacher protests.

Katy LeRougetel is a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 6932 in Montreal.

Hundreds view Cuba art exhibit

BY JANICE LYNN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Several hundred people had the rare opportunity to view some 30 lithographs, silkscreen prints, etchings, and paintings by a wide variety of Cuban artists during a two-week exhibit of contemporary Cuban art that ended here May 28.

The exhibit, entitled, "From Cuba With... Art!" was shown for the first time in Washington, D.C., courtesy of the Cuban Interests Section.

The Centro de Arte, a Latino arts center that seeks to promote Latin American and Caribbean artistic expression, hosted the exhibit.

About 100 people attended the opening reception May 15. Eight area restaurants donated food and refreshments for the event.

"We are promoting this activity, which shows only a small glimpse of the Cuban reality, as part of promoting Cuban culture in the United States," Armando Amieva, cultural attaché from the Cuban Interests Section, told those assembled.

"A double blockade exists," Amieva continued. "Not only is there a blockade against

Cuba, but U.S. citizens are denied access to Cuban culture and are also denied the right to travel freely to Cuba."

Amieva noted the quality of the artistic works on display. "These come out of the successes of the Cuban revolution over the last 35 years," he said. "In the cultural field alone, there are many possibilities to show U.S. citizens, those from Latin America who live here, and others what has been denied them."

Works by known Cuban artists, such as Alicia Leal, Wilfredo Lam, René Portocarrero, and Victor Manuel García are included in the exhibit, which is available to be shown in galleries across the country.

Also speaking at the reception was Leslie Salgado, from the Howard County Friends of Central America. She encouraged people to participate in a national day of lobbying and other activities on June 9 to oppose the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

Janice Lynn is active in the D.C. Hands Off Cuba Coalition and a member of the International Association of Machinists.

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S. Africa parliament

Continued from front page
what and when."

For three decades the military, police, and special forces of the former white regime organized the killings of untold thousands of opponents of apartheid rule and working people who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Violence and the attempt to instill terror was part and parcel of the rulers' massive land theft, consignment of millions to the Bantustans, and prevention of Blacks from having any citizenship rights whatsoever.

Among the victims of this brutal policy were ANC leaders who the apartheid regime organized to assassinate in exile, among them the ANC representative in Paris, Dulcie September, who was shot dead in 1988.

The ANC has proposed that all persons, including ANC members, accused of committing crimes prior to October 1990 be given indemnity. The new Parliament is to decide on those accused of crimes between that time and December 1993. Prior to the election, Mandela said that no consideration would be given to those accused of offenses after that date, though this has yet to be resolved.

In a speech to Parliament on May 27, ANC leader Dullah Omar, now minister of justice, said the new government would keep a ban on executions "for the present." This affects 400 people on death row. Omar told the body, "I must confess that keeping even a single person on death row and in constant suspense gives me sleepless nights and we need to put an end to this trauma as quickly as possible." He said new legislation on the proposed amnesties would soon be drafted, as will decisions on the use of the death penalty.

Omar said, however, that "there will be no amnesty without disclosure." The minister added, "I want to give an assurance to those who may have perpetrated human rights violations . . . that in respect to politically motivated crimes, there will be no Nuremberg-type trials, no vengeance, no witch-hunts, no revenge, and no humiliation of any person.

"But I am also duty bound, for the sake of moral integrity of our country," he said, "to give the assurance . . . particularly to the victims and their loved ones, there will be no suppression of the truth."

Parliament is to reconvene June 22.

Natal crisis unfolds

New violence broke out in KwaZulu-Natal province over the May 28 weekend. Some 26 people died in armed assaults.

ANC representative tours New Zealand

BY RUTH GRAY

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — More than 90 people came to hear African National Congress representative Ntshinga speak here May 16. Ntshinga was introduced by former governor-general Sir Paul Reeves, who was one of 30 people from New Zealand to go to South Africa as international observers for that country's first ever nonracial elections.

Ntshinga began his remarks by thanking those who had played a role in the anti-apartheid struggle. Commenting on the ANC's election victory, he said, "This is the greatest event in the history of South Africa. This victory is as much yours as it is ours. We fought for this democracy together."

While apartheid has ended, the struggle is by no means over, Ntshinga said. In fact the most difficult period lies ahead. Millions need jobs, homes, schools, medical care, electricity, sanitation, and land. These problems that were created by apartheid now have to be tackled so that "we can create a South Africa which offers prosperity and security for all," the ANC leader said.

The ANC has drawn up a Reconstruction and Development Program that concretely addresses these social and economic problems. To fund this program, Ntshinga said, millions of dollars used for security and covert operations to maintain apartheid will need to be made available to provide for the peoples' needs.

Today, he said, it is important for the international community to continue their solidarity so that the tasks of the democratic revolution can be completed. "If South Africa were to disappear from the political agenda of the world we believe it would be more difficult to deal with the problems we face," he said.

The province includes the former KwaZulu Bantustan, now reincorporated into the republic. It is the stronghold of Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the rightist Inkatha Freedom Party, who holds the post of minister of Home Affairs in the new government.

A May 19 report by Transitional Executive Council investigator Howard Varney revealed that so-called self-protection units commanded by Inkatha senator Phillip Powell on the Bantustan were given training in terrorism — including how to set fire to a bus so passengers could not escape. The KwaZulu government and police provided ample weaponry, from automatic rifles to limpet mines.

Disputes between the ANC and Inkatha broke out in the provincial Parliament over Inkatha's apportioning of regional cabinet posts. Three ANC leaders in the area, including Jacob Zuma, refused to take posts proposed by Inkatha premier Frank Mdlalose. The ANC and Inkatha agreed to negotiations on May 24.

The conflict arose following revelations of a secret deal made by deKlerk one day before the election granting virtually all the lands of the Bantustan to King Goodwill Zwelithini, a traditional Zulu leader.

Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) economic director Sipho Shabalala rose to defend the action, which will be used in the attempt to block an ANC-led land reform in the province. The South African Press Association reported the PAC leader said there was no reason to believe that the king would abuse his powers regarding the land gift. "The land is to be held in trust for the born and unborn citizens," of South Africa, said Shabalala in a statement.

Crisis for PAC

The PAC, an antiapartheid organization that split from the ANC in the early 1960s, advocates a perspective for the "African majority." It has consistently lost ground to the ANC-led mass movement's call for a democratic, nonracial, nonsexist South African republic. PAC leaders claimed it would emerge victorious in the April elections. Instead, the party suffered a decisive defeat, winning only 1.2 percent of the national vote and five seats in the 400 member parliament.

PAC deputy president Johnson Mlambo told the *Weekly Mail & Guardian* that "what disturbs us now is the uniform picture, one percent everywhere." He blamed the loss on a lack of funds, election irregularities, and "the weight of opinion of the decision-making foreign observers."

Dr. Ben Marengwa, the organization's



Militant/Greg Rosenberg

South African police. For decades the apartheid military and cops killed opponents.

leader in the North West province, called for a national congress to debate its poor performance. Marengwa said the "electoral na-

tional fiasco" was caused by the inefficiency of the PAC head office. "In the PAC certain heads must roll," he said.

Nation of Islam figure shot after college speech

BY MAURICE WILLIAMS

Khalid Muhammad, a former spokesperson of the Nation of Islam, was shot May 29 after giving a speech at the University of California. The shooting took place in a campus parking lot in Riverside, California, about 50 miles east of Los Angeles.

Five bodyguards were wounded in the attack, four of whom were treated and released. The other bodyguard and Muhammad, who was shot in the lower legs, were both reported in stable condition at a local hospital.

The alleged gunman, James Bess, is a former minister of the Nation of Islam's Seattle branch. According to the *Los Angeles Times* and other newspapers, Bess was expelled from the organization a few years ago, and was trying to build his own group with a twice-weekly religious program on a Seattle cable television station. Bess was

severely beaten by supporters of Muhammad who witnessed the shooting. He suffered a fractured shoulder, internal injuries, and lost teeth before being arrested.

Police said Bess would be charged with attempted murder. The chief of the Riverside police department said all physical evidence pointed to Bess as a lone assailant, but they were not ruling out a conspiracy.

Before being shot, Muhammad had spoken to an audience of 500 at the University of California Riverside auditorium. The meeting was sponsored by a campus group called the African Student Alliance. The previous night, Muhammad had addressed a crowd of 1,000 people in South-Central Los Angeles.

In his speech at Riverside, Muhammad repeated reactionary nationalist statements he has made for months in a series of campus and other lectures. He described whites as satanic and accused Jews of participating in the civil rights movement to advance their own interests while hindering Black progress.

Muhammad was removed in February from his position as spokesman for the Nation of Islam by its leader Louis Farrakhan. The action came after a controversial speech Muhammad gave November 29 at Kean College in Union, New Jersey, where he called Jews "the bloodsuckers of the Black nation and the Black community" and said the Pope was a "cracker" in a dress.

highly immoral, politically immoral."

Ruth Gray is a member of the Engineers Union. Felicity Coggan, a member of the United Food, Beverage, and General Workers Union, contributed to this article.

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Lessons of workers' opposition to WW II

The big-business press has been full of fanfare over the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy. As the flags wave, the rulers of the United States, Britain, Canada, and other imperialist powers are using the occasion to fan patriotism and pose as defenders of democracy by presenting World War II as a "war against fascism."

The excerpt printed below from *Teamster Bureaucracy* by Farrell Dobbs is a good answer to these falsifications of history. Dobbs was a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States and an organizer of the Teamsters union during the rise of the CIO in the 1930s. This book is about organizing to oppose World War II, racism, and government efforts — backed by the union officialdom — to gag class struggle-minded workers. While the excerpt below begins with the Stalin-Hitler pact in 1939, Dobbs delves into why then U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt prepared to draw working people into the slaughter of World War II. The book draws on extensive quotes from the pages of the Minneapolis Teamsters paper, the *Northwest Organizer*.

The companion piece, "World War II: several wars in one," is a concise description of the various forces at play in the world slaughter. It is excerpted from "Washington's third militarization drive" by Mary-Alice Waters, editor of *New International*. This article appears in issue no. 7 of the Marxist magazine. It is copyright © *New International*: 408 Printing and Publishing. The excerpt is reprinted by permission.

Teamster Bureaucracy is part of a four-volume series written by Dobbs and published by Pathfinder. The selection below is copyright © Pathfinder Press, reprinted by permission. Subheads are by the *Militant*.



In night demonstration in Paris, January 1946, U.S. troops carrying torches, shout, "We want to go home!"

olis where William Z. Foster, the best-known CP leader, was the featured speaker.

Leaflets advertising the affair were printed in red, white, and blue. The hall decorations gave the impression that a rally of the chauvinistic Daughters of the American Revolution was to be held, and the program opened with the singing of the national anthem.

Acting with similar pro-war zeal during the July 19 1939 WPA tie-up, the CP intro-

6 If J.P. Morgan wants to defend his investments let him fight, don't make us fight for him . . .

came "warmongers." To differentiate from them, the Stalinists coined a new slogan: The Yanks are not coming.

Attempting to conceal the real cause of their shift in line, the CP hacks pretended they were making a left turn toward principled opposition to imperialist war. "Peace Committees" were formed within the labor movement, using all possible means to give them a non-Stalinist coloration. But in every case those setups propagated the new line handed down by the Kremlin — that the U.S. should take a neutral stance concerning the war in Europe.

At the same time, the Stalinists reversed themselves on the question of a third term for Roosevelt. Previously he had been touted as the representative of "progressive" capitalists, who deserved labor's support against the "reactionaries." But those credentials had suddenly disappeared, according to a resolution adopted by the CP's political committee.

As reported in the *Daily Worker* of October 15, 1939, the resolution declared: "Pressed by the imperialist bourgeoisie, the Roosevelt government, despite its avowed intention of 'keeping out of war,' more and more takes a course which threatens to involve the U.S.A. in the imperialist war. . . . the slogans of anti-fascism no longer give the main direction of the struggle of the working class and its allies as they formerly did in the period of the struggle for the anti-fascist peace front and people's front. . . . [The difference] between the New Deal and anti-New Deal camps is losing its former significance. Both are parties of the bourgeoisie and seek in various ways to realize and promote the predatory interests of American imperialism. . . ."

Patriotic hysteria whipped up

Meanwhile, Roosevelt had been quick to use the European developments to implement his foreign policy. A scare was raised about the "vulnerability" of Washington and New York if a foreign army landed on the Atlantic coast. On that pretext, large-scale "war games" were held to practice "defensive maneuvers." As a further means of creating patriotic hysteria, a "limited state of national emergency" was declared, and in that setting a special session of Congress was called for September 21, 1939.

Convening of the special session was accompanied by a White House announcement that two submarines of "unknown nationality" had been sighted off the coast of North America. The administration also released a "confidential report" that messages had been intercepted from Berlin and Moscow which instructed their "friends" in the U.S. to press for continuation of the existing official embargo on arms shipments to warring nations.

Such was the atmosphere in which a so-called Neutrality Act was rushed through Congress. It lifted the arms embargo and provided a legal formula for the shipment of military supplies to the Anglo-French imperialist combine. That step served, in turn, as a means to build up this country's munitions industry in preparation for the day when the ruling class would be ready to enter the "war against fascism" on its own account.

Among those advocating such aims — with double-talk about "defense of Ameri-

can interests" — was J. P. Morgan, a bankermonopolist. He was answered by the *Northwest Organizer*, which said:

"J. P. Morgan has a gun. He has just returned from a sojourn in Scotland where he was shooting grouse. If he wants to defend his investments, let him take his gun and fight for them. But don't let him try to force us to fight for him. And don't let him try to lie about any fake 'war for democracy.'"

What appeared to be a forthright stand against the Morgan-Roosevelt line came from yet another quarter. The *Minneapolis Times-Tribune*, speaking from a pacifist viewpoint, raised a warning against moves to involve the U.S. in the European conflict. But that approach to the vital issue of war and peace had a history of trickery, as the Teamster organ pointed out in an open letter to the editors of the capitalist daily.

"During the past several weeks," the open letter stated, "your paper addressing itself to the fathers, to the mothers, and to the youth of the

Northwest, has made fervent appeals 'against any movement to involve the United States in the present European war' and against sending 'American boys abroad as soldiers.' . . . The feelings that the masses have about this monstrous bloody brawl between the imperialist slave-holders of different camps are the feelings that you express. And yet, gentlemen, WE DOUBT YOU. . . .

"Let us turn back the pages of history twenty-five years . . . to the quiet summer days of August, 1914. How young and bright and healthy the world seemed then. And like a flash of heat lightning the First World War broke about the heads of startled mankind. . . . In your editorial of August 5th [1914] — you called it 'The Only Ref-

World War II: Several wars in one

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

Contrary to popular belief both then and now, World War II was not a war to stop fascism. It was much more complex than that; it was at least "three wars in one," as the SWP explained at the time.

• It was an interimperialist war in which the defeat by Washington and its allies of Germany, Japan, and Italy did nothing to eliminate the economic and social roots of fascism nor the causes of imperialist oppression. Fascism, the most virulent form of maintaining imperialist rule, will again attempt to raise its head in any period of deep capitalist crisis and accelerating class polarization and combat.

• It was a war to roll back the Russian revolution and reestablish capitalism in the Soviet Union. With enormous sacrifice the workers and peasants of the first — and at that time only — workers' state turned the tide against German imperialism's invading armies. They prevented the imperialist powers from realizing this historic objective, which none of them have ever abandoned from October 1917 to this day.

• It was a multifront war for national liberation in which the colonized and oppressed nations of the world took good advantage of the interimperialist conflict to advance their interests — from India to China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Korea, the Mideast, Ireland, and Québec.

A fourth war also took shape as the imperialist bloodletting continued: the war carried out by resistance forces — many organized by the workers' movement — in the occupied countries of Europe. That was a war against the fascist dictatorship imposed by Hitler's National Socialist movement. It was also a war by the workers to create the most favorable possible conditions for the working classes in Europe to emerge victorious over their own bourgeoisies, whether fascist or "democratic imperialist," as the conflict unfolded.

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uge is Peace' — you wrote: 'All the news is that the world is rushing to the bloodiest war ever fought among men. Were it justified by issues as solemn as any that have ever provoked war, the price would still be too great. But it is justified in nothing. . . .'

"How like your words today. Indeed, your pages then seemed to foreshadow in an unbelievably accurate way the steps that President Roosevelt is taking now. On August 6th, 1914, your leading front-page story told of the President's [Wilson's] mobilization of the army and navy — of the precautionary measures taken 'to enforce neutrality.' . . . 'This mobilization,' you assured your readers, 'is not intended for war or for defense from impending attack. The sole purpose of the preparations being made is to protect American neutrality.'

"The war progresses. Millions of men, the flower of all nations, march into the valley of death. The day of April [6.] 1917 strikes. . . . From your pacifism of the start of the war, you went all the way over, to become the bla-

“Pacifism alone can never stop war. The people must find other ways to stop the war-makers...”

tant leader of the war-mongering pack that urged the people on to war — 'for democracy and civilization,' you said. . . . And how effective a trick it was! The *Minneapolis Tribune*, the leader of the antiwar sentiment in the Northwest, endorsing the war. Why, if the *Tribune*, who hates war, endorses the war, the war must be a good war, a just war. What assurances can you give us today that you won't repeat your performance of 1917?"

In a follow-up editorial, calling attention to the *Times-Tribune's* failure to answer the open letter, the *Northwest Organizer* added: "Pacifism alone can never stop war. There have always been pacifists and there have always been wars. Pacifism is not enough. The people must have a chance to decide, they must demand of Congress that it give to the people a direct popular referendum vote in the case of any and all wars. . . . And if Congress denies this democratic and fundamental right, the people must find other means to stop the war-makers."

Those sentiments were widely shared, as a declaration by the 1939 convention of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor demonstrated. "We," the delegates asserted, "demand the adoption of a constitutional amendment that would take the warmaking power out of the hands of Congress and refer it to a vote of the people."

A few weeks later hostilities broke out between the Soviet Union and Finland. Tear-jerking pleas for sympathy with "poor little Finland" quickly followed in a further effort by the imperialists to create public sympathy at home for "defense of democracy" abroad.

All war funds to unemployed

Such propaganda was denounced as a capitalist trick by the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, which restated its antiwar views through a resolution introduced by Miles Dunne of the Teamsters. The concluding passage stated that the CLU "again declares its unalterable opposition to any war launched by the government; that we again demand that all war funds be transferred immediately to the relief of the unemployed; that we oppose intervention by the United States on either side of the present war in Europe; that we declare our support for a national referendum binding on Congress for any and all wars."

Use of the formulation "binding referendum" stemmed from a recent development in Congress. Senator Robert M. La Follette had tried, in typical liberal fashion, to soften ruling-class opposition to the referendum demand by submitting a watered-down version of the Ludlow amendment.¹ His substitute called for a national "advisory" vote, before Congress would declare war. What this plebiscite meant, of course, was that an

1. In 1935 Rep. Louis Ludlow, a Democrat from Indiana, introduced a resolution in Congress calling for an amendment to the Constitution that would require approval from the majority of voters in a national referendum before Congress could declare war.



Workers march in 1939 demanding war budget be used to aid the unemployed

expression of the people's will would have no binding effect on Congress, and the CLU opposed any such retreat on the issue.

There was evidence, moreover, of concern on the part of many others about binding control over the pro-war forces in government. Public opinion polls, which had been taken from time to time, continued to show a majority in favor of the referendum demand, and in those circumstances the bellicose capitalists were quick to order rejection of La Follette's pitch. They wanted no snarls whatever in the strings used to manipulate their congressional puppets.

Jingoistic propaganda emanating from Washington soon mounted to higher intensity when, in the spring of 1940, Germany invaded Norway and Denmark. And once again the Minneapolis CLU warned the workers against being taken in by the enemy class. In its unanimous statement on the subject the AFL central body said: "We declare in favor of international, militant working class solidarity to stop the war."

Protecting interests of U.S. capitalism

To help explain what was really going on, the *Northwest Organizer* added in reporting the CLU action: "Day after day, speech after speech, one move after another — in the Pacific, in Europe, at home — the President is hurtling this nation down the road that Wilson strode, to war. . . . The heartfelt anti-fascist sentiments of the American people are being systematically manipulated to get them to support a war of the United States whose real purpose has nothing whatever to do with freeing the peoples of Europe from fascism and military dictatorship. . . . The interests of American capitalism demand that new fields of investment, new markets, new sources of raw materials, be made available for America's Sixty Families. Like Hitler Germany, like every other imperialist nation, the United States must expand, or capitalism will die. That is what the war is all about, and that is all it is about. All the talk about 'democracy' is hogwash."

In its next issue, the Teamster organ took up the question of progressive and reactionary wars. "The revolutionary war fought by the original colonies," it explained, "was a progressive war because it served to liberate this nation from the clutches of the English crown, it served to insure that the budding American manufacturers could develop and furnish America with a higher standard of living for the masses."

"The Civil War on the part of the Northern army was also a progressive war insofar as it represented a victory of the capitalist North over the . . . [slaveholding] South, and insofar as it served to free the Negro slaves. It was progressive because capitalism represented a more progressive social system. . . ."

"With the growth of American imperialism, however, the point was reached where it was no longer possible for this nation's government to fight a progressive war. . . . Of all the wars that are being conducted today in the world, only one may be said to be a progressive war, the war of China against Japan insofar as the Chinese are fighting to free themselves from imperialism. Certainly, nothing progressive can come out of the war in Europe so long as

the governments now leading the nations involved remain at the head of the people. Not until the war is converted into a war of the people against their governments and against the capitalists who have brought about the mass slaughter will the war be a progressive war, a liberating war, a war that can carry mankind to higher economic and cultural levels."

Not long thereafter Roosevelt took a new step in his preparations to lead the country into the imperialist slaughter. In the summer of

“Take war making powers out of the hands of Congress, refer it to a vote of the people...”

1940 a measure calling for peacetime conscription, the Burke-Wadsworth bill, was introduced in Congress. The *Northwest Organizer* responded to the move by putting forward a military policy for the working class, which had been developed by Leon Trotsky in talks with leaders of the Socialist Workers Party.

"With few exceptions," the union paper emphasized, "the toilers of this nation have indicated their opposition to compulsory military conscription under a war machine dominated by anti-labor interests. . . . It is not the idea of military training itself that is objectionable to labor. No worker would be opposed to understanding the furthest reaches of the military art. It is partly the idea of taking this training under the heel of a notoriously anti-democratic and anti-union military clique that labor objects to. Millions of toilers further sense that the war for which they will

be trained to fight will be a war that is definitely not in their interests, a war that is not fought for any higher ideal than that of profiting Big Business. . . ."

"Despite the mass opposition to the Burke-Wadsworth bill, it must be clear to all but a handful of pacifist blockheads that some sort of compulsory military training is going to be insisted upon by Big Business. . . . Pacifism is a bankrupt philosophy in our modern world. Any union man who has ever been through a strike can tell you this. There isn't a union that could last one year if it adopted a pacifist attitude towards the finks and thugs and strike-breakers sent against it by the employers. . . ."

"A frank recognition of the truth reveals that at present organized labor is neither strongly enough organized nor of the mind to abolish or stop the war machine. But American labor is well enough organized to protect the interests of the workers in the army, just as we protect the workers in their jobs. We oppose corralling the workers into the regular army. . . . If Big Business insists that the masses be taught the military arts, we propose that the trade union movement be given control of the military training of the workers."

"We want to see union men trained in the military arts, not in the bosses' way, not for the defense of American imperialism, but in the union way, for the defense of the workers' homes and lives and jobs against enemies at home and abroad. We want to see the workers trained in the military arts under their own union officials, whom they can control and trust, at government expense."

Hard on the poor, easy on the rich

After the conscription bill had breezed through Congress, as was becoming more and more the case with Roosevelt's moves toward war, the Teamster organ added the following observations on the subject:

"Congress has furnished us these last few weeks with a revolting spectacle — and an excellent political lesson. How ready was the United States Senate to conscript the wealth of the common man, his labor power, and subject him to the military dictatorship of the army, at scab wages and non-union conditions. And how outraged Congress becomes at the mere thought of conscripting the wealth and source of power of the rich: their factories and machines. . . . Hard on the poor and easy on the rich—that's Congress all over when it comes to national defense."

"Washington's actions become all the more indefensible in the light of recent revelations about the hoggishness of Big Business and its refusal to even start production on army goods until it is guaranteed exorbitant super-profits, until the government will give it the factories in which it will coin gold from the sweat of the regimented workers. . . ."

"We would like to see the government expropriate every big industry in the nation and place it under trade union control. Then you would see no sit-down strike of capital. Then efficient production could really be organized, with real concern for the rights of the workers and the unemployed."

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Vote for union at USAir is gain for all labor

BY EDWIN FRUIT

PITTSBURGH — In a victory for the entire labor movement, the National Mediation Board announced on May 17 that 66 percent of Fleet Service workers at USAir had voted for union representation.

This group of workers — which includes baggage handlers, caterers, and air freight service employees — had been without a union since 1990 when the International Brotherhood of Teamsters was decertified in a systemwide election. In the interval, USAir took advantage of this to unilaterally slash wages, benefits, and full-

UNION TALK

time jobs. In 1992, the company put into effect a one-year pay reduction of 8 percent. The following year, vacation, sick days, and holidays were lumped into a Paid Days Off system where workers were forced to use one bank of days for all these categories. In addition, employees are paid straight time for all holidays worked.

In 1994, fleet service workers with seniority dates back to 1986 were relegated to part-time status. The company also refused to copay family medical coverage. Thus, a ramp worker who was forced to reduce his or her workweek from 40 to 30 hours also had to pay \$250 a month to keep their family insured.

Airline workers in Pittsburgh were ecstatic at the union victory. "I can now have my dignity and respect back, knowing the company has to bargain," one worker said.

USAir did not wait long to victimize workers who had voted union. On May 20 it announced the subcontracting of its freight and mail facilities. This will eliminate more than 600 union jobs. The company also said there was a strong possibility that later this year catering services would be contracted to another source.

The 66 percent prounion vote was spread between three unions that vied for representation. The International Association of Machinists (IAM) received 1,813 votes, the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) 1,746, and the Teamsters 1,533. Since none of the three obtained a majority of the votes, the National Mediation Board declared a runoff between the two highest vote-getters, the IAM and the USWA. Ballots will be mailed out June 17 and counted July 20.

Debate on union preference

The IAM already represents some 8,000 USAir mechanics, cleaners, and store clerks. While many IAM members view a Machinists union victory in the runoff as strengthening their position at the bargaining table, others feel threatened by this outcome. "I hope the ramp workers get a union but I don't want them in the IAM," one cleaner said. "The union will just work out a deal with the company to take away our jobs and we'll get less say if ramp workers with their own interests come into the union."

Some fleet service workers who support the USWA have similar sentiments. One worker in Pittsburgh explained he is supporting the Steelworkers because "we want our own union. We don't want to be dominated by the IAM mechanics."

Another IAM member disagreed with this view. "We'll



Militant/Nancy Blythe
USAir striker and supporter in San Diego, California, during 1992
Machinists walkout. Sixty-six percent of fleet service workers just voted
in union as airline is pressing all employees for deeper concessions.

be able to get more out of the company if we can bargain together as one union," the airline worker said. "I wouldn't want the IAM to organize a steel mill. The USWA's strength is that everyone in the mill is in the same union regardless of job classification. The same is true for USAir. We can't afford to be divided into separate organizations."

"It just makes common sense," a ramp worker said. "We work side by side with IAM members. We should all be in the same union."

Many former supporters of the Teamsters are leaning toward the Machinists union. "The IAM is already on the property. I supported the Teamsters because it was the union that had bargaining rights for us until the decertification. I think we'll be better off in one united union at USAir," one Teamster supporter said.

Company offensive

In the meantime, USAir has been hammering its employees with its dire financial situation in a series of meetings systemwide.

At one meeting I attended, a USAir vice president detailed the mounting losses. Since the 1989 merger with Piedmont, the airline has lost \$1 billion, the company official said. He pointed to an article analyzing the airline industry in the May 9 issue of *Forbes*. Southwest and Continental are making inroads on the major carriers, the magazine said. Continental is USAir's main adversary. It is expanding its routes all along the East Coast, traditionally a stronghold of USAir, and lowering its fares, which

USAir must match in order to compete. While USAir has more flights and is flying more passengers than ever before, the article asserted, it can't make any money with the slashed fares.

The company has already requested that the Air Line Pilots Association, the Association of Flight Attendants, and the IAM reopen their contracts to discuss more permanent givebacks in wages, work rules, and benefits. The two unions and the pilot's association accepted concessions in their 1992 contracts.

Workers in no mood for concessions

The recent union election victory is one of the indications that USAir employees are in no mood to give more concessions. Pay for top executives increased at USAir in 1993. Company chairman Seth Schofield's total compensation went from \$631,837 to \$815,538 last year. As one mechanic said, "I'm not giving up anything when the top dogs are taking raises like that."

USAir's goal is to bring workers down to the pay and benefit level of the nonunion Continental employees with the same work rules or worse.

What USAir management doesn't explain is that in 1983, Continental Airlines, under the tutelage of Frank Lorenzo, broke all the unions on that property — enabling the company to impose low wages, poor benefits, and part-time work.

USAir workers are fed up with being blamed for the problems of the bosses. We are entitled to a full day's work at decent wages with benefits to cover the needs of our families. Our goal should be not to bring us down to the level of Continental workers but to bring them up to ours. And we need to use our unions as tools to fight for the interests of the entire working class — such as maintaining and expanding Social Security, demanding free health care as an entitlement for all, and defending affirmative action and other measures that can unite working people.

The prounion vote by USAir workers is another sign of growing labor resistance against the employers' attacks. The recent nationwide trucking strike, the current fight of Caterpillar workers, the one-day walkout by Conrail employees for safe working conditions, and the Allegheny Ludlum strike are examples of this labor combativity. The new contingent of 8,000 unionized employees at USAir will not only strengthen workers' ability to fight back there but could be an impetus for further organizing and resistance among airline and other workers.

As a Machinist I have had many discussions with IAM and fleet service workers on the job as to which union to support in the upcoming election. Choosing the IAM will put 16,000 USAir employees in the best position to deal with what the company will be demanding in concessions. The question here is industrial union organization. In unity there is strength. One union on the property puts the rank-and-file in a better situation to fight for the best possible contract.

Workers are ready for the next stage of the fight — obtaining a contract. "They can't take any more away," one worker said. "It's time to get back what we have lost."

Edwin Fruit is a member of IAM Local 1976 at Pittsburgh International Airport and works for USAir.

Canada gold miners win reinstatement after strike

BY NED DMYTRYSHYN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The Canada Labor Relations Board ruled that 48 out of 50 fired miners, members of the Canadian Association of Smelter and Allied Workers Union (CASAW) Local 4, can return to work. The arbitration hearings came five months after CASAW gold miners in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, ended an 18-month strike against Royal Oak Mines with their union intact and a contract.

The main issues in the strike were the

company's attempt to cut back safety inspections, its disciplining of injured workers, and attempts to roll back seniority rights. Royal Oak hired replacement workers and used a cop presence and police violence to try to bust the union. Unionists from across Canada and internationally gave support to the CASAW strikers, whose fight became the most important labor battle in the country. It came at a time when strike activity in Canada hit the lowest point in 50 years.

In the first stage of the hearings, held

April 4-12, 28 out of 29 miners were reinstated. One miner couldn't be located. In a second hearing May 7-8, 20 out of 21 unionists were reinstated. The labor board allowed the firing of one miner to stand because he had been convicted of an alleged assault during picket line activity.

With these rulings, the majority of workers at Royal Oak are now CASAW members. One hundred fifty-five union members, including 25 who crossed the picket line, remain at Royal Oak out of the 234 that were there before the strike started in May 1992.

According to CASAW member Jim Fournier, half of the 48 miners who won their jobs back faced suspensions. All but six are back at work now, having been reinstated with back pay. Out of those who are still suspended, Fournier has the longest penalty. He will be off the job without pay until November 1994.

"We're going to fight these suspensions," Fournier said in an interview. "With these suspensions you get six points on your record. One more point and you're fired. The good thing is that the guys who were suspended and now reinstated start with zero points."

The reversal of the firings is an important victory for the union. Former local president Harry Seeton is one of the reinstated miners. During the strike, mine owner Peggy Witte stated publicly that Seeton would never come back to work at Royal Oak Mines. The company opposed the return of the fired workers, claiming they would jeopardize the safety and security of the mine. In September 1993 the Canada Labor Relations Board

ruled that the company had been bargaining in bad faith. Royal Oak is appealing this decision to the Supreme Court of Canada, having been turned down in a lower court.

Frame-up of unionists continues

In the meantime, the company frame-up of three union members continues. CASAW member Roger Warren, who is being held without bail in the Yellowknife Correctional Centre, will face trial in September on charges of first degree murder in the death of nine replacement workers who were killed by an explosion at the mine Sept. 18, 1992. Since that time, the Royal Oak owners, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the big business media have been wagging — without a shred of evidence — a massive frame-up campaign to blame the strikers for the tragedy. CASAW members Tim Bettger and Al Shearing, also held without bail, are facing lesser charges, which include setting an explosive device, possession of a prohibited weapon, and uttering death threats. Their preliminary hearing is scheduled for June 13 in Yellowknife.

A fund has been established for the legal defense of the miners. Contributions can be sent to the Canadian Auto Workers c/o Jess Suckamore, 707-12th St., New Westminster, B.C., V3M 4J7. Checks should be made out to the Canadian Auto Workers and earmarked for the defense of Warren, Bettger, and Shearing.

Ned Dmytryshyn is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 692 in Vancouver.

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DOUG JENNESS

Allegheny Ludlum strike remains solid

BY TONY DUTROW
AND MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER

PITTSBURGH — Allegheny Ludlum Corp. held its annual stockholders meeting here May 20. It was used by corporate officers to step up threats against 3,500 striking members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA). Despite this pressure, not one union member has crossed the picket line.

At the 20-minute stockholders meeting, company chairman Richard Simmons declared, "Allegheny Ludlum will emerge from the strike a stronger company, knowing more about its equipment, and how best to operate it than ever before."

The specialty steelmaker is using management and salaried personnel to work in its struck mills. To staff the plant in New Castle, Indiana, it is offering employees from other facilities a \$200-a-week bonus on top of their current salaries, \$25 meal allowance per day, full payment for all hotel expenses, free phone calls home, and free travel home once a week.

In another attack on the strike, company president Robert Bozzone told reporters that many customers have signed six-month contracts with new suppliers. This will mean layoffs for some union members after the strike, he contended. When asked if any of the salaried scabs will be laid off, Bozzone replied, "No bloody way!" Bozzone also said the company has enough cash on hand to last for several more months.

A planned union protest at the stockholders' meeting was called off at the last minute by union officials because of perceived movement in the negotiations. The company answered this gesture by stepping up its antiunion barrage in the media.

In an attempt to turn up the pressure, Allegheny Ludlum sent letters to workers' homes asserting that the average striker has lost almost \$7,000 in the two-month strike. "Our plant gates remain open," stated the letter sent to all striking employees.

Allegheny Ludlum is attempting to drive a wedge into the strikers' display of unity by continuing to insist they will never agree to a union representative on its board of directors. This is something all other major U.S. steel producers agreed to in the latest round of union negotiations. However, the union's recorded hotline message says, "The company is trying to make an issue from a nonissue. A board seat is not an issue and will not be an issue."

Allegheny Ludlum continues to harp on this question in an effort to cover-up its refusal to address the actual demands the strikers feel most strongly about: cycle time and money.

'Disruption of work life'

The cycle time concept was introduced in 1992. It means the company processes each order immediately, instead of waiting for a number of similar orders to accumulate. The company no longer stockpiles certain types of steel in anticipation of orders. The result has been a dramatic reduction in inventory and in the amount of money tied up in stockpiled steel. This is a type of "just-in-time" production that is becoming more common in many U.S. industries.

For workers, however, it has resulted in what they refer to in negotiations as "disruption of work life." Unexpected overtime is added at the end of a workweek, ruining any plans that workers may have made for anticipated days off. This happens on such a



Militant/Ron Poulsen

Steelworkers' picket line at Allegheny Ludlum plant in Brackenridge, Pennsylvania, May 28. Some 3,500 union members at five plants refuse to accept concessions.

regular, weekly basis that it has become a major strike issue for the workers. Most already work rotating shifts, holidays, and weekends, with odd days off each week.

Allegheny Ludlum wants to get the same six-year contract term other steel producers have. However, it only offered a single 50-cent wage increase during the life of the contract, and \$3,000 in bonus payments.

The company's most recent wage offer was to increase bonuses to \$3,800 and two raises of 2 percent. For a worker in a high job classification, this would be an increase of about 67 cents per hour. Others would get less.

There is still no offer to improve pensions,

vacations, holidays, or profit sharing.

Members of USWA Local 1196 at the company's largest plant in Brackenridge, Pennsylvania, and Local 1138 members at Leechburg are using the regular monthly union meetings to mobilize workers for informational reports from the negotiating team and as an opportunity to ask questions.

Resolve to keep up strike

Strikers on the picket line report that the mood at the last Local 1196 meeting was overwhelmingly in support of keeping up the picket lines until a satisfactory contract is negotiated. More than 400 people attended that meeting, about a quarter of the local's membership. USWA Local 1196 organizes picketing 24 hours a day at 10 gates by groups of up to seven strikers. The local also operates a strike kitchen around the clock.

On the same day as the stockholders' meeting, the Social Agency Committee of the union distributed food at the hall of a local volunteer fire company. One hundred fifty strikers and family members helped organize distribution of the food sacks. Committee cochair Jack Berkett said many local stores helped collect the items. Some workers in the area collected food on the job to donate. Stores from two large grocery chains also donated items.

Berkett noted there was one exception. "Giant Eagle [the largest area grocery company] chose not to participate," he said. "They said it was because a few years ago we actively supported the strike of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 23 against Giant Eagle."

Tony Dutrow is a member of USWA Local 3196 in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. Michael Christopher is also a member of the USWA.

Thousands of garment workers walk out



Militant/Becky Ellis
Garment workers are striking for better working conditions and pay.

Continued from front page to get a separate, one year contract in Secaucus, he said. The company is offering a 21 cent raise. "We can't make separate deals with the company and sell out the workers in Georgia or Pennsylvania," Lizano stated.

Isidro Johnson said that when he began working at SASSCO twelve years ago the building occupied half a block. Now it covers two blocks and they are planning to add another floor. They had 12 presses and now they have 72. Another striker echoed this, saying that while the company expands, the working conditions get worse.

Lorma Percival, who has worked as an inspector for seven years, said the company demands workers move faster and faster. Last year, the bosses locked the women's bathroom and made workers get a pass from their supervisor to use it. There were only three passes, at any one time, for more than 50 women. Percival called in the union and the women successfully beat back this outrageous attack on their rights and dignity.

Among those walking the picket line was

Ho Mau Nguyen, a retired official from the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and member of the National Executive Board of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance. Ho is the official translator for the Vietnamese strikers. Thao Ly, a striker who is from Vietnam, said that the company originally offered a 3 percent wage increase. The workers pushed it up to 4 percent and thought that with a strike they could get more. She said that job security and better medical insurance are other issues in dispute.

"The most important thing about this is the solidarity among the workers," Ouber Lizano said. "The spirit is very strong."

Karen Ray, a member of the ILGWU in Boston, and Linda Marcus, Rich Ariza, and Kim Allen in Newark, also contributed to this article.

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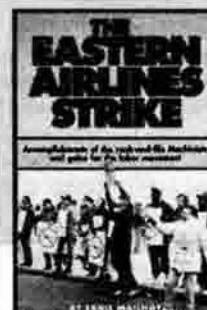
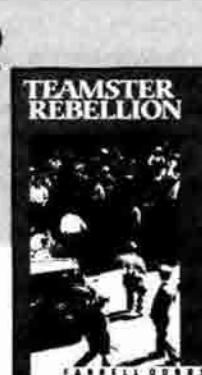
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LTV steelworkers take strike vote

BY JOHANNA RYAN

CHICAGO — Members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) at LTV Steel plants nationwide voted overwhelmingly to strike on June 1. At the company's Indiana Harbor Works outside Chicago, the vote was unanimous at shift meetings held May 23. Workers reacted with anger and disbelief to LTV's latest offer. "They want to take us back to the 1930s — before the 1930s!" exclaimed one steelworker after reading the proposal.

LTV demanded a "flexible" scheduling plan that would allow for 10- and 12-hour shifts at straight-time pay. The company wants to combine production, maintenance, and labor-gang work in a scheme that could eliminate hundreds of jobs. It also proposed that the union join a "productivity committee" to help eliminate the jobs vacated by the large numbers of workers expected to retire in the next five years. Random drug and alcohol testing is another part of the company's plan.

In return for these concessions, workers

were offered a single 50 cent wage increase over the life of a five-year agreement, and modest one-time payments to supplement a pension plan that remains among the worst in basic steel.

LTV operates two large mills at Cleveland and Indiana Harbor; an iron mine in northern Minnesota; and smaller plants in Pittsburgh; Aliquippa, Pennsylvania; and Hennepin, Illinois. In June last year the company emerged from a seven-year bankruptcy, during which it forced large-scale concessions from the Steelworkers union.

As the *Militant* goes to press, LTV workers received word of a tentative agreement that has put strike action on hold. The offer was approved by LTV local presidents by a 10-8 margin and will be sent to the ranks for a vote. Members of USWA Local 1011 will meet June 2 to discuss the details of the proposal, which have not yet been made public.

Johanna Ryan is a member of USWA Local 1011 at LTV's Indiana Harbor Works.

MILITANT LABOR FORUMS

CALIFORNIA San Francisco

End Forced Return of Haitian Refugees! Clinton Government Continues Criminal Repatriation Policy. Speakers: Pierre Laboissier, Bay Area Haitian American Council; representative, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 11, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (at Mission). Donation: \$4. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

Labor Resistance Today! Lessons of Recent Workers' Battles Against the Employers' Anti-union Offensive. Speakers: Jack Boyle, Teamsters Local 315, shop steward at Consolidated Freightways; Scott Rodman, Teamsters Local 315, shop steward at United Parcel Service, Richmond; Ellen Berman, Socialist Workers Party, and member of United Auto Workers Local 2244 contingent in May 7 international rally for Caterpillar workers. Sat., June 18, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (at Mission). Donation: \$4. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

IOWA

Des Moines

Free Leonard Peltier Now! Speakers: Michele Vignola, Leonard Peltier Defense Committee.

Is inflation about to surge in world economy?

Continued from Page 14

over the past year, is one example of this trend.

Why does the mere suggestion of inflation terrify bondholders? Because they hold debt in the form of bonds, currently to the tune of \$8 trillion, and because there are two ways to get rid of debt: by paying it off, or by having enough inflation so the value of the debt rapidly shrinks away.

All the presumptions held by bourgeois commentators and spokespeople from the Federal Reserve bank can be shattered when politics intervene in the economy, which doesn't exist in a vacuum. War or preparations for war, for example, will play a big role in the coming economic ups and downs.

The employing class has a massive amount of cash flowing through all sorts of bond and stock markets and currency exchanges daily. It continues to face a declining return on capital, and is increasing downsizing and cost-cutting. These measures put pressure on profit rates. Without an expansion of productive capital and higher growth rates, the result could be a horrible deflation like that which took place during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

A rapid growth of inflation is unlikely at this time. This situation can change, however, as world political events affect the financial markets.

Rubinstein argues that the Federal Reserve, through raising short-term interest rates, "is intent on keeping" the current restructuring going, including the assault on workers' wages and conditions. They are "telling the industrial capitalists" that this reorganization of the production process must continue, he says.

CALENDAR

ILLINOIS

Decatur

Solidarity March and Demonstration at the A. E. Staley Plant. One year anniversary of the Staley lockout. Sat., June 25, 12 noon. Meet at UAW Local 751 (Caterpillar workers), 2365 East Geddes Avenue. March will head to the Staley plant and corporate headquarters at 2200 East Eldorado. For information, call (217) 876-7006.

IOWA

Des Moines

Support the Fight for Parole for Mark Curtis! Mark Curtis Defense Committee Picnic. Sun., June 12, Noon to 6 p.m. Look for the MCDC signs to Cherry Glen Shelter #4 at Saylorville Lake. \$7 advance ticket/\$8 at the door. For directions or information, call Mark Curtis Defense Committee, (515) 246-1695.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Protest the U.S. Ban on Travel to Cuba. Help get Twin Cities activists to Cuba! Fund-raising barbecue. Sun., June 12, 1 p.m. See a special screening of the Cuban video "After the Battle," about Cuba's role in helping to end apartheid in South Africa. 4724 Chowen Avenue S. (46th Street exit off 35W to 50th Street, west 4 miles to Chowen — between Xerxes and France — right, 2 1/2 blocks.) Donation: \$10. For more information on how to apply for the trip, or how you can help, call (612) 690-3041 or (612) 623-3748.

representative, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., June 11, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (515) 246-8249.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Stop the U.S. War Moves Against Haiti! Panel discussion. Sun., June 12, 5 p.m. 780 Tremont St. (corner Mass Ave.) Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution. Speaker: Cindy Jaquith, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress, member of United Auto Workers Local 155, and member of the Militant's Nicaragua bureau in the 1980s. Sat., June 11, 7:30 p.m. 7414 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (313) 875-0100.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

From Staten Island to Glassboro: The Fight Against Police Brutality. Sat., June 11, 7:30

p.m. 141 Halsey St. (At corner with Raymond Blvd.). Donation \$4. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Miami-Havana. Video and discussion on the relations between Cuban-Americans and the Cuban people and government. Speaker: Rosa Garmentia, member Socialist Workers Party and Cuban-American activist in solidarity with Cuba. Sat., June 11, 7:30 p.m. 59 Fourth Avenue (corner of Bergen). Donation: \$4. Tel: (718) 399-7257.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

The Rise and Fall of the Nicaraguan Revolution. Benefit for the New International Fund. Speaker, Martin Koppel, editor of *Nueva Internacional* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. Sun., June 19, 6 p.m. 2000-C S. Elm-Eugene St. Donation \$5. Tel: (910) 272-5996.

BRITAIN

Manchester

What Response to World Depression. Panel

discussion of workers from the Rail and Maritime Trade Union and the Amalgamated Engineering Union and activists fighting police frame-ups in Manchester. Sat., June 11, 6 p.m. 1st floor, 60 Shudehill. Donation: £2. Tel: 061-839 1766.

CANADA

Vancouver

Video presentation: Nelson Mandela in Cuba. Sat., June 11, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St. (between 23rd and 24 Ave). Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

NEW ZEALAND

Christchurch

The Independence Struggle in East Timor. Video showing of John Pilger documentary: "The Death of a Nation." Speaker: Kate Rodda, Communist League. Sat., June 11, 7 p.m. 199 High St. Donation \$3. Tel: 03 365-6055.

Reject the Todd Report. Education is a Right, not a Commodity! Sat., June 18, 7 p.m. 199 High St. Tel: 03 365-6055.

But the Federal Reserve does not need to tell the capitalist class what to do. The employers initiated the restructuring of industry and the assault on the labor movement. The bank is merely one expression of their interests. It has no will independent of the ruling class.

Finally, Rubinstein argues that "the lessons of the '87 stock market crash have not been lost on the rulers of this country."

What are the primary lessons to be drawn from the 1987 crash? Every few months, Congress or some panel will announce that it is investigating program trading, derivatives, or some other component of the stock market to prevent sharp ups and downs. It never works.

The big lesson from 1987 is that capitalism has entered a period of extreme economic and social crisis, which will not be resolved short of big battles between the working class and the employers, and which inevitably makes wars and the threat of war more frequent. There aren't any measures bourgeois economists have or can come up with — neither higher or lower interest rates, nor different forms of computerized trading — to reverse the historic downward slide in the curve of capitalist development.

Difference between stocks, commodities

Reader Fowler is correct when he points out a jumbled and confusing sentence in the May 2 article. The main difference between stocks and bonds and commodities is that commodities have value, embodied in the labor time necessary to produce them. As the original article explained, stocks and bonds have no fixed value. The daily confidence level of the capitalist class determines what wealthy investors consider to be their "worth." This fluctuates wildly.

The other point I tried to make in that article is that the financial markets under capitalism do not exist in a vacuum. They are part and par-

cel of capitalist production and social relations. Consider the fact that the lives of tens of millions of working people are bound up with the huge capital flows that stream through the stock, bond, and currency exchanges. Capitalist investors gamble with entire social programs, such as pension funds, as they try to fatten their profits.

The entire banking system, which currently warehouses vast amounts of government bonds, is tied into this too. Domestic and international trade, industrial production, mining, and agriculture are locked in as well. There is not a separate paper economy — affecting only coupon clippers — walled off from the real economy. Stocks, bonds, and currency exchanges are part and

parcel of the capitalist method of production, including the buying and selling of human labor power.

Capitalism is preparing a horrible crisis through its own workings. Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan and other so-called financial experts can find no solutions to this crisis short of attempting to squeeze more out of our labor power and eventually crush the working class. But before Wall Street can accomplish that, workers and farmers will get their chance to take power out of the hands of these capitalist profiteers and their experts who pretend to be able to predict and control the blind economic laws of their irrational and inhumane system.

Haitian gov't arrests fleeing refugees

Continued from Page 3

and searching all vessels, and firing at any that refuse to halt. Since October this armada has interdicted 1,005 vessels, but turned away only 81.

Also moving towards Haiti is the USS Wasp, an amphibious assault ship carrying about 650 Marines. The Wasp is headed for the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for what the Pentagon calls "routine refresher training" exercises.

A May 30 *New York Times* article pointed to the dilemma facing the U.S. rulers in the so-called debate about whether or not to invade Haiti. "Determined not to repeat the mistakes of Somalia, Administration officials say Washington will not launch any military operation in Haiti without a firm plan for disengagement," the article stated.

"The problem is not getting in," an unnamed Pentagon-based general told the

Times. "It is getting out."

Pointing to what it called a "long-term problem," the *Times* article said, "Administration officials tick off several potentially vexing scenarios if Father Aristide is returned: If he and the Haitian Parliament renew their confrontation, who should peacekeepers support? If crowds loyal to Father Aristide try to retaliate against military or police officials, should the peacekeepers prevent it?" And the *Times* added, "What if Father Aristide tells the force to leave after a few weeks?"

Correction

The article in the June 6 issue of the *Militant* titled "Meeting protests British rulers' immigration plan" incorrectly identified immigrant rights fighter Anwar Dittar as a man.

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Christchurch: 199 High St. Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 365-6055.

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

GREAT SOCIETY

We thought it was familiar — Recycling the air in airline passenger-cabins less often saves fuel and



Harry
Ring

also reduces fresh air by half. Responding to passenger complaints of various afflictions from this, officials responded that the air quality is no worse than in theaters or other densely populated enclosed areas.

Signs of change — Members of Congress voted down a bill to end their free parking at Washington airports. But the signs were changed. Before, they declared "Reserved Parking, Supreme Court Justices, Members of Congress, Diplomatic Corps." Now they read: "Restricted Parking, Authorized Users Only, Violators Will Be Towed at Owner's Expense."

Balance of trade — Recently we read, but forgot to clip, an item reporting that a U.S. entrepreneur was planning to import 200 Singapore flogging canes to retail at \$19.95. Now we read that the Pen-

tagon would like for McDonnell Douglas to sell 18 fighter jets to Singapore for \$1.5 billion.

Chiapas Justice — A Mexican Congressman said that in 1986, he visited a Mayan prisoner doing 30 years in Chiapas for killing his father. The legislator found that each day the "dead" father brought food to his son. The victim had been grilled and tried in Spanish, a language he barely understood. That, coupled with police beatings, produced a confession of "patricide."

Role reversal — Over the years, wealthy individuals, known as "names," did nicely bankrolling

Lloyd's of London. But in two recent years, the insurance syndicate lost nearly \$7 billion and the names have to cough it up. An apparently disgruntled Society of Names declared: "The sums now needed are usually only obtained with a mask, a gun and a getaway car."

It worked for him — A Texas jury awarded \$1.5 million to a troubled couple who were conned out of \$3,500 by evangelist Robert Tilton. They said their money was earmarked for a crisis center that never materialized, and that Tilton had promised financial success and emotional fulfillment. Tilton re-

cently folded his TV show, Success-N-Life, which had brought in as much as \$80 million a year.

"Madman Mercedes" — To broaden its popular appeal, Mercedes-Benz will offer its new line of S-Class cars for \$65,900, nearly \$6,000 less than last year's model.

Thought for the week — "Capitalism has never been for cowards. Hard times — call them depressions, recessions, downturns or anything else you like — serve us well. They create winners and losers at an astonishing clip." — The *Florida Shipper*, trade journal.

Economic upturn in Sweden leads to new hiring

BY CARL-ERIK ISACSSON

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — After three years of negative growth rates — the deepest downturn in this century — Swedish capital is now heading for a year of growth. The recovery began in the third quarter of 1993. Industrial production increased by 2 percent last year, exports grew 7.2 percent, and profits are increasing for most industrial manufacturers.

The economic upturn is based primarily on export-oriented industries, such as electronics, auto, wood, and paper. There have been few signs of recovery in retail sales, however, or in construction, where more than a third of the workforce was unemployed during the winter months.

The growth in exports flows from the devaluation of the Swedish krona by more than 20 percent in 1992, when a currency crisis shook economies across Europe. Industrial goods produced in Sweden are now cheaper on the world market than before. In addition, the devaluation has led capitalists from other countries to increase investments in Swedish stocks, real estate, and industry. In the 1980s Swedish capitalists were aggressive buyers of factories and real estate abroad; the opposite is the case today.

Interest rates in Sweden climbed more than in other European countries after the financial jolt on the U.S. stock and bond markets last month, as the government scrambled to protect the value of the krona. This reflects the relative weakness of Swedish capitalism in relation to its competitors.

The Swedish ruling class has been unable to drive down the social wage, which workers have come to expect as a right, to the extent needed to aggressively compete on the world market. Unemployment compensation has been reduced to 80 percent of a worker's wage, for instance, but this is still far above the level in Britain, Canada, or the United States.

Overtime and hiring in industry

As in other imperialist countries, the current upturn has been based primarily on "downsizing," speedup, and other concessions squeezed out of the working class, not increased investments in factories and machines. Investment in productive capacity stands at about 12 percent of the gross national product in Sweden today, compared with 25 percent in the 1960s.

Just a few months into 1994, several

major companies, including automakers Volvo and Saab, have reached the 200-hour annual limit on overtime per worker and are now beginning to hire. In mining, overtime now accounts for 5.8 percent of total working hours; in auto, paper, and pulp, the figure is around 5 percent. These figures are all higher than the overtime rates reached during the last upturn in the 1980s.

In the first quarter of 1994, Volvo hired 570 workers at its truck plants in Sweden. Many of these workers are being recalled to jobs they had been laid off from, but there are also some new hires. Saab Scania has called back 50 workers to its truck plant in Södertälje, with plans to hire 200 more in the coming months. Both automakers are hiring temporary workers as well, many of them young.

Volvo and Saab have substantially reduced their workforces since 1989 — Volvo by about 20 percent and Saab by half, from 14,600 to 7,900 — in a drive to increase productivity through computerization, job combinations, and speedup. Many of those who lost their jobs were managerial personnel. In the same period 6,000 jobs were slashed in the paper mills. These factories have now begun some modest hiring.

During the 1991-93 recession some 600,000 jobs were lost, causing real unemployment to soar from less than 3 percent to more than 14 percent. The official jobless rate rose to more than 8 percent. Layoffs exceeded new jobs every month, but this is beginning to change.

End of 'lifetime job security'

In April, the unemployment figure decreased slightly for the first time since 1990. But the jobless rate is expected to remain high during this upturn. Seven hundred thousand people are looking for work in Sweden, out of a population of 8.6 million; 100,000 have been unemployed for more than six months. Unemployment is still growing among youth, despite the upturn in hiring.

In the 1980s, a total of 60,000 to 90,000 new jobs were announced each month. In February 1994 the total was 28,000.

The bosses have made some inroads on employment terms. Three-quarters of these new jobs are described as "temporary" today, compared with one-half in the previous decade. Companies are now allowed to hire workers as temporaries for up to a



Militant/Birgitta Isacsson
Construction workers demonstrate in Stockholm, January 1993. Lifetime job security that was considered part of Swedish model is becoming history.

year, instead of six months. Probationary periods for new workers, which used to be six months, can now be extended to 12 months.

The "lifetime job security" that was con-

sidered part of the Swedish model is becoming history.

Carl-Erik Isacsson is a member of the Metalworkers Union at Saab Scania in Södertälje.

— 25 AND 50 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interest of the Working People
June 13, 1969

Price 10¢

The Argentinian military dictatorship headed by General Juan Onganía is in deep trouble. A series of student demonstrations were met with extreme police violence. This in turn engendered widespread sympathy for the students. The workers sought to demonstrate their solidarity through action. So powerful was this upsurge that the unions, in defiance of threats that they would be crushed by military force and strikers would be liable to the death penalty, staged a one-day general strike May 30 that shut down the entire country.

On May 29, Argentina was placed under martial law and special military tribunals were set up, empowered to hand down death sentences to those who refused to obey the dictates of the military regime. Large contingents of police and troops patrolled the major Argentinian cities.

Violent fighting swept the automobile center of Córdoba during the day and night of May 30-31. News of the battles there shocked the country. "At the height of the fighting in Córdoba last night," Malcolm Browne wrote in the *New York Times* June 1, "Buenos Aires residents watched dramatic sequences [on television] from the northern industrial city showing waves of policemen firing pistols at close range into an advancing crowd of rock-throwing workers."

Fierce fighting was also reported in the country's depressed northern province of Tucumán when unemployed sugar workers besieged a government-owned railroad repair shop on the day of the general strike.

In Buenos Aires, as well as the big provincial cities, buses and taxis were halted.

The postal system was closed down. The textile mills were silenced. All of the schools were closed.

The railroads — the country's most vital transportation network — were also struck — despite the fact that they have been under direct military supervision since 1967 and harsh penalties can be imposed on strikers.

In many areas, shopkeepers closed down their businesses to demonstrate support for the workers and students.

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

JUNE 10, 1944

An examination of the strike statistics released last month by the government's Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals that the number of strikes has increased each year since Pearl Harbor. Covering the first three months of each of the three war years, the study shows that the number of new strikes has been progressively greater for each period.

The number of new strikes occurring in the first quarter of 1942 was 571, for the same period in 1943 it was 643 and 1,020 or almost equal to the total of the two previous years, for 1944. The figures show a similar progression in the number of workers involved in new strikes. In the first three months of 1942 there were 154,343 workers involved in new strikes; in the first quarter of 1943 there were 203,998, and for the first three months of 1944 the figure given is 340,000.

The curve of the strike movement continuing as it does, its upward swing on the eve of the invasion, is indicative of the increasing discontent of the workers and their disillusionment with the compulsory arbitration machinery of the Roosevelt administration.

IN SWEDISH

Ny International no. 1

Opening Guns of World War III

Washington's Assault on Iraq

Jack Barnes

The U.S. government's murderous assault on Iraq heralded increasingly sharp conflicts among imperialist powers, the rise of rightist and fascist forces, growing instability of international capitalism, and more wars. Also includes "Communist Policy in Wartime as well as in Peacetime" by Mary-Alice Waters. \$19.00

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Reject immigrant bashing

The May 28 immigration rights march in Los Angeles points the way forward in answering the bipartisan drive by politicians in Washington and throughout the country who attempt to scapegoat immigrant workers for the social crisis caused by capitalism.

The action, which involved students and workers, was a proud display of unity between labor and immigrant rights groups.

The boss class through their anti-immigrant efforts tries to divide and weaken the working class as a whole. Their attempts to pit so-called American workers against those lacking papers is central to their efforts to drive down wages, living standards, and democratic rights of all working people.

A woman from El Salvador aptly described this at the march. "Because I wasn't born on this soil and don't have papers, my life is worth nothing to these people?" she said. "Of course, they don't mind if I clean their houses for very little money. They will grant me that right."

Democratic and Republican politicians argue that it's the flood of immigrant workers into the country that's responsible for the loss of jobs. But this is a lie. Unemployment and the creation of a reserve army of labor is central to the workings of the capitalist system itself.

Those leading the charge in scapegoating immigrant workers seek above all else to divert working people from uniting to fight their common exploiters — the wealthy capitalist families that run the White House and the state capitol.

Politicians like Republican governor of California Pete Wilson promote some of the most outrageous immigrant-bashing proposals. These include using troops to shut down the border and denying these workers medical benefits and education for their children. But his Democratic Party cohorts, while occasionally moderating their language, are equally determined to strip away constitutional rights from

undocumented workers.

The working class has no country. It's a truly international class that transcends borders worldwide. The flow of workers across national borders brings together fighters with different class struggle experiences, further strengthening the working class as a whole.

Today the working class in every imperialist country — including Japan — is more multinational than at any time in its modern history.

While the capitalists' idea of a Europe with a single foreign currency and one foreign policy is being exposed as a bourgeois utopia, the Europe of the working class is slowly marching toward coming into being. What comes with expanded trade is greater travel by workers to get jobs. In every single capitalist country in Europe today there is a higher percentage than ever before of workers from other countries and other nationalities who are part of the working class.

And in the United States, the influx of immigrant workers from Latin America and Asia continues.

This is one of the changes in the working class worldwide that is improving its odds as a force in society that can transform and salvage the future.

In this light, the labor movement should take the lead in condemning the Clinton administration's criminal policy that prevents Haitian refugees from entering the United States. The newly announced policy of perfunctory hearings prior to the forced return of the vast majority of fleeing Haitians is just a cosmetic change from the previous practice of immediate forced repatriations.

Working people should demand that Washington grant immediate asylum to Haitian and other refugees. Furthermore, the labor movement should reject attempts to marginalize undocumented workers and deny them social services.

For a world without borders!

The D-Day anniversary fraud

"There is no peace," the banner headline in the August 18, 1945, issue of the *Militant* said. In the aftermath of World War II, as the U.S. rulers proclaimed the opening of the "American Century," few agreed with the socialist paper. But today, as the first war in Europe in half a century continues in Bosnia and as trade conflicts and rivalry among the imperialist powers become more open, its words ring true to more people.

While the rulers in Washington, Paris, and London push their D-Day celebrations, similar class, national, and inter-imperialist conflicts that led to World War II are driving humanity closer to a third world slaughter. War among these imperialist powers is no longer unthinkable, as it was for nearly half a century.

The 1990s opened with promises of a United Europe with a common currency and markets. Today, the bosses can't even agree on a common commemoration of D-Day. London's decision to exclude Bonn from the activities has little to do with World War II, and everything to do with the rivalry between the two powers today. Trade conflicts — over everything from soy beans to sick cows — shake the world economy daily. And in Bosnia, the "new world order" alliance, which former U.S. president George Bush gloated over in the aftermath of the Iraq war, is nowhere to be seen. Each of the imperialist governments involved looks after its own interests in the region.

Fifty years after World War II, the imperialists have also

failed to reestablish capitalism in the territory of the former Soviet Union. The fall of the Stalinist regimes in Eastern Europe and the USSR, far from the boon the capitalist rulers hoped it would be, has become a gigantic problem for them. Before capitalism can be reimposed in these countries, the working class will need to be crushed. And from eastern Germany to Russia and China, it is clear that workers are resisting the unemployment and poverty that capitalist "reforms" bring. In doing so, their struggles will more and more merge with those of workers and farmers around the world.

World War II did not eliminate the social and economic causes of fascism either. As the current crisis deepens, fascist currents are again gaining a hearing — from Germany and Italy to France and the United States — among frightened and demoralized layers of the middle class for the most part, as well as some workers. Fascism and war are always the twin answers of the capitalist rulers to a deep-going crisis of their system.

"Only world socialism can save mankind from another imperialist war," the *Militant* explained in 1945. That too remains true today. Before the employers in one or more imperialist democracies decide that fascism is the only way to rescue capitalism from its crisis, and before the rulers can drag humanity into another world war, the working class will have a chance to take power away from the warmongers and reorganize society in the interests of the great majority.

Support Freedom to Travel trip

On June 23, dozens of people from several U.S. cities will travel to Cuba in direct defiance of Washington's travel ban. The trip is sponsored by the Freedom to Travel Campaign, whose organizers say their goal is to get the U.S. travel restrictions to Cuba completely lifted. It is indeed a noble objective.

These restrictions are part and parcel of Uncle Sam's policy of aggression against Cuba, which includes an inhuman and criminal embargo and aims to crush the socialist revolution in the Caribbean country.

The U.S. government prohibits residents from spending money in Cuba — effectively making travel there impossible. Exceptions apply only to a few categories of people, such as Cuban-Americans visiting close relatives or professional journalists covering events in Cuba. Washington backs up its travel ban with the threat of prosecution. Violators can be fined as much as \$250,000 and jailed for up to 10 years.

Last year, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs Alexander Watson and other U.S. officials threatened to prosecute some 170 people after they returned from the first Freedom to Travel trip to Cuba in October.

The White House has so far refrained from doing so, even though it has left the threat of legal action dangling. In April, the government returned most of the passports U.S. Customs agents had confiscated from 65 of the participants in the October trip. This should be hailed as a victory by all opponents of Washington's policy.

There is no indication, however, that Washington is about to drop or even ease some of its travel restrictions.

In February, the Clinton administration did a review of its travel bans against several countries and announced there would be no change in its policy toward Cuba. The review came after Rep. Howard Berman and Sen. John Kerry proposed amendments to existing laws to ease restrictions on travel "whose purpose is informational, educational, religious, or humanitarian."

This year alone, the State Department denied visas to several Cubans invited to visit the United States by academic institutions — such as Rev. Raul Suárez of the Havana-based Martin Luther King Jr. Center and editor of *Juventud Rebelde* Arleen Rodríguez Derivet — while it granted permits to a few others.

But regardless of its short-term effect on U.S. travel restrictions, the upcoming Freedom to Travel trip will provide the opportunity to those joining to get a glimpse of the Cuban revolution for themselves and return to speak about it to thousands of others. Fund-raising and other activities to build the June protest against the travel ban, as well as reports by those who return, can help win hundreds of new recruits to the fight against Washington's policy of aggression against Cuba.

Building broad participation in the trip by students, workers, professionals, artists and other prominent people will also minimize the possibility of government prosecution against those who defy U.S. dictates. Supporters of the Cuban revolution should turn their attention to accomplishing this goal over the next month as an important part of the fight to end the U.S. embargo and travel ban.

Is inflation about to surge?

BY GREG ROSENBERG

In this week's letters column, readers Floyd Fowler and John Rubinstein pose several questions stemming from an article in the May 2 *Militant* titled "Behind recent plunge in stock, bond prices. Expanding balloon of debt, paper values threatens economic catastrophe."

In that article I argued that because of the declining rate of profit, employers have been pouring massive sums of money into risk capital — stocks, bonds, and currency exchanges — in an attempt to get higher return on their investments. As a result, an ever-expanding bubble of credit and debt threatens economic collapse when it bursts.

Rubinstein says that the assertion I made that the trend in the imperialist economies is toward deflation, not inflation, is wrong.

What are the facts?

The imperialist world continues to experience deflationary pressures. Since 1980, average commodity prices have dropped by more than half in real terms, according to a report in the April 16 *Economist*. Commodities in this usage refers to farm products such as cotton and sugar, minerals, and forest products such as lumber.

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

In April, consumer prices in the United States rose only 0.1 percent. During the same month, what is referred to as producer prices for finished goods fell 0.1 percent.

Inflation in the United States stands at 2.4 percent. Both the Consumer Price Index and the Producer Price Index posted their smallest increases in the year to April for the last two decades.

Overall, prices of computers and telecommunications equipment have fallen by 23 percent over the past five years.

Inflation is less than 5 percent in Britain, Canada, France, Germany, and Japan.

In the first quarter of 1994, prices for some commodities rose sharply — coffee futures by 60 percent, copper by nearly 20 percent, and crude oil by 25 percent. But, an article in the May 13 *Financial Times* noted that "prices are heading up from extremely low levels. Metals prices were at their lowest in real terms last November. Coffee prices have been depressed for five years and hit their lowest point since 1974 two years ago; oil prices are still \$3 lower than this time last year."

Many of the price rises were triggered by computerized program trading that follows market trends, not real supply and demand levels. These computer programs are devised to generate short-term profits through speculation in futures and often to ignore data such as real stock levels of commodities. Metals prices, for instance, have risen some 20 percent since the beginning of the year, despite overstocked warehouses around the world. The same is true of oil.

Much larger price increases will be necessary before an inflationary spiral begins.

The most important fact about the discussion over inflation today is that the current economic upturn is unfolding amidst a worldwide economic depression.

Inflation and deflation

Inflation is a rise in prices throughout the economy generally indicative of a lessening of the value of a given currency.

Whenever inflation is mentioned, capitalist politicians and economists are quick to point the finger at the culprit they want held responsible — workers. The argument goes that when workers get higher wages, prices rise in an ever-increasing upswing. But that's not the case. Wages don't determine prices.

If this were true, employers wouldn't be concerned with union demands for higher pay. They would simply pass pay hikes along by raising prices on the market.

The price of a commodity is determined by the amount of labor time needed to produce it. This includes everything from the time it takes to produce the raw materials to the portion of machinery used up or worn out in the production process.

If wages rise, there is no effect on the amount of socially necessary labor time needed to produce commodities. What does happen is a shift in the division of the national income from the employing class to the working class. Wages rise and profits fall.

Deflation is a tendency toward declining prices, a decrease in the amount of money in circulation, and usually an accompanying decline in employment.

A recent article in the *New York Times* commented that "American industry seems to be defying the old inflationary assumptions by finding ways of doing more with less."

As a result of falling profit rates, the employers have entered a furious round of competition. So-called downsizing and cost-cutting have become their watchwords — meaning the effort to squeeze more out of each worker while avoiding large capital infusions for plant and productive capacity.

The competition between the capitalists in the United States and their rivals in Europe and Japan has seen the U.S. bosses come out on top. But it also means that many prices have been driven down. The war over cigarettes, with Philip Morris announcing several major price cuts

Continued on Page 12

Auto workers in Flint, Michigan, authorize strike

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines about what is happening in your union, at your workplace, or other workplaces in your area, including interesting political discussions.

Protesting speedup at General Motors Corp.'s Buick City plants in Flint, Michigan, the 11,500 members of United Auto Workers Local 599 voted on May 25 to authorize

stated, "Fewer people, more cars per hour. At a certain point that equation won't work. Not even with more money, GM's got to hire more people here." □

Oil workers in Canada strike against job cuts

The 264 members of Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada (CEP) Local 691 went on strike May 12 to oppose job cuts at the Irving Oil refinery in St. John, New Brunswick. "We're fighting one of the most powerful families in Canada," said Larry Washburn, union local president. "The biggest thing you could do for us is to let people know what's going on."

The Irving family, which owns



Militant/Colin McKay

Striking workers picket Irving Oil refinery in St John, New Brunswick, on Canada's Atlantic Coast.

ON THE PICKET LINE

a strike. The vote by members of the largest local in the GM system was 6,220 to 1,022.

With car sales of the Buick Park Avenue and Le Sabres up, GM has increased line speed by 8.5 percent. On the machine floors, production quotas have increased by 30 percent according to Dave Yettaw, president of the local. Some workers in the plants have worked three Saturdays a month mandatory overtime since August, 1993. "We're in a good position right now," said a UAW member who voted for strike authorization. "We should be pushy."

Negotiations over the workers' demands will begin after the Memorial Day weekend.

Voting was conducted at card tables set up in front of the plant entrances. Many workers wore "I have voted" stickers. One worker

the refinery, controls much of the province's economy, including media outlets. The struck facility is one of the largest in Canada. Refinery operators won a 37.3 hour workweek in 1973. Irving now wants to increase the regular workweek without paying overtime. In addition, the company aims to reduce overtime pay to time and a half from the double time after eight hours that is paid presently.

According to the pickets, who slowly walk around the front of the oil trucks that are trying to move in and out of the plant, job losses are their main concern. Three different votes on contract offers and strike action have taken place. In each, 90 percent of the workforce has opposed company demands and backed the call for strike action. Court injunctions have limited

pickets and forced other union personnel to cross the lines. □

Rail workers in Vermont fight union-busting move

Vowing to fight the proposed sale of the Central Vermont (CV) Railway, union employees are organizing a statewide rally June 11 in St. Albans, Vermont. "There is power in numbers," said Julie Howard of St. Albans at a May 19 meeting, which attracted about 100 union members and supporters.

RailTex Inc., a San Antonio, Texas, holding company that owns 23 railroads, is planning to buy the Central Vermont Railway for \$40 million. CV's 11 unions are mounting a campaign to block the takeover. RailTex officials have already announced plans to cut

about 100 jobs from CV's 180-member workforce.

RailTex is attempting to use a section of the Interstate Commerce Act that permits a new owner, if it is not a railroad company, to gain an exemption from honoring existing labor contracts.

"They own 23 railroads, so how could they not be a railroad?" asked Larry Thornton, general chairman of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen. He termed RailTex's proposal a "scam." □

Garment workers union announces new contract

Negotiators for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) announced May 25 they had reached an agreement on a new three-year contract with six major associations representing coat, suit,

dress, rainwear, and children's wear makers in the northeastern United States.

The new pact provides for a 10 percent wage increase over three years and increased employer contributions to the union's health and welfare fund, union officials said. The agreement covers nearly 20,000 workers. It also sets the pattern for settlements involving some 90,000 workers in the northeastern women's outerwear industry. Current contracts for most of these workers expire at midnight on May 31. □

Arlene Rubinstein, member of International Association of Machinists Local 141 in Detroit, and Katy Le-Rougetel, member of United Steelworkers of America Local 6932 in Montreal, contributed to this column.

LETTERS

Inflationary pressures

Greg Rosenberg's excellent article on the bond and stock market was mistaken in one important respect.

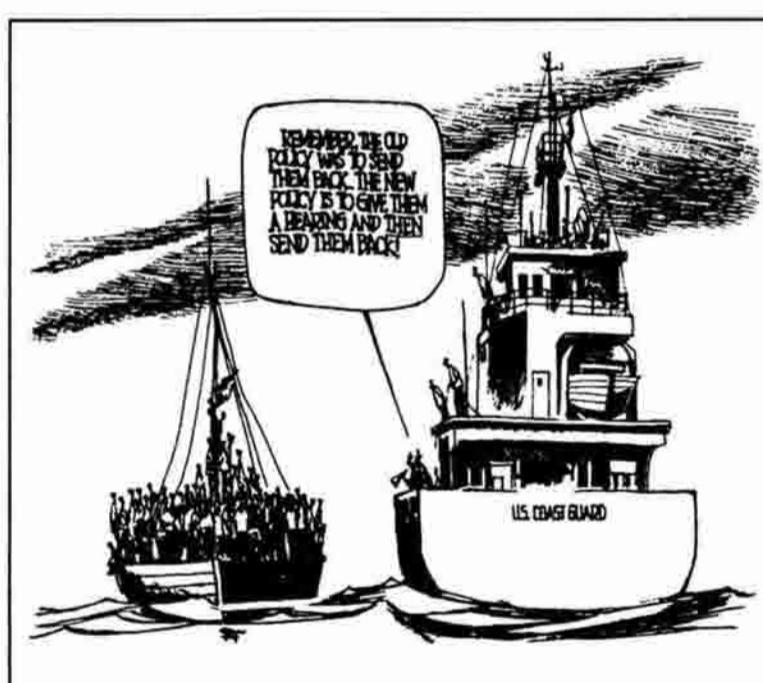
He was wrong when he explained that chief among those factors contributing to the steep slide in these markets was a seemingly irrational fear of inflation on the part of the capitalists. This was because, as he went on to argue, worldwide capitalist economies from Japan, to Europe, to the United States were experiencing deflationary conditions.

The precipitous slide in the bond market dates to February 4 when the Federal Reserve first increased the federal funds rate from 3 to 3.15 percent. It has since raised the rate two more times.

But the Fed, along with other representatives of capital, is not motivated by irrational fears of inflation. While inflation is still below 3 percent, inflationary pressures are in fact building up within the U.S. economy due to the current upturn in the business cycle. For example, earlier on in the year basic steel was already operating at close to 95 percent of capacity and manufacturers were purchasing steel in overseas markets in order to fill the backlog of orders.

The fundamental reason for the current economic upturn and the shifting relationship of economic forces within the world capitalist economy to the advantage of U.S. capitalism has been the latter's ability to force through a massive restructuring and downsizing of the economy. This, among other things, has involved a relentless assault on the bastions of organized labor.

The Fed's policy is intent on keeping this dynamic on course. Rather than see further expansion through a policy of cheap money (and therefore inflation), the fed is telling the industrial capitalists that growth in the context of almost full



utilization of current capacity must be accomplished first and foremost through productivity increases, whether these are brought about through consolidation and restructuring of capital, or further assaults on the working class, or both.

While it was argued at the time of the Feb. 4 rate increase that the Fed had miscalculated the impact that such a raise would have on the financial markets, its subsequent two rate increases despite massive losses of paper values on the bond market make it evident that the Fed had decided to engineer a steep decline at this time rather than risk an uncontrollable collapse of the speculative bubble at a later date. The lessons of the '87 stock market crash have not been lost on the rulers of this country.

John Rubinstein
New York, New York

Debt and paper values

In the May 2 *Militant* article, "Behind recent plunge in stock,

bond prices," there's a point you made that I (and perhaps others) don't understand. I follow the point you made midway into the article that stocks, bonds and commercial paper are not "things" at all (beyond being pieces of paper), but are representations of relationships between debtor and creditor, banker and borrower, etc.

The article states, "Like commodities themselves, debt and paper values are not things. They are part of production and reproduction of capitalist social relations." This seems put in a confusing way.

Debt and paper values are like commodities in that they are traded, bought, and sold, with profits being realized from the transactions. Buyers and sellers on the market treat them as they treat other commodities — at least in that way.

Debt and paper values are unlike most commodities in that they are not physically existing things, with a use value determined by their

physical characteristics, which most commodities are.

I'm always glad to see articles like this one, that tear away the veil of mysticism from Wall Street's workings.

Floyd Fowler
Atlanta, Georgia

Lies of capitalist class

As I reread the April 18 *Militant* article "London rejects pardon for executed WW I troops," I am reminded of some very important truths we ought never to forget: Our dear comrade, Janet Booth, [whose grandfather, Harry Farr, was executed for desertion in World War I], is dedicated to "clearing her grandfather's name . . . and the families of the other executed men who have had to live with the shame," which occurred in WW I.

Let us be liberated: the shame is on the corrupt capitalist ruling class who lie and brainwash us when we are immature, young, and gullible. Their lies about honor to kill people, to make the rich pigs richer, to enslave our working class are big ancient lies.

It is an honor to refuse to kill people, to desert, to refuse induction, to be a Conscientious Objector, Resistor, Dissident, Anti-War agitator, Humanist, Peace-maker. During the Vietnam war era more than 100,000 young men refused to slaughter people; they hid, fled to Canada etc., were jailed.

In 1918 the Canadian War Lords came after my friend, who refused to go to their war. His mother hid him in a bag of dirty, smelly clothes. They searched the house, the closet, kicked at the bag and never found him. They never caught him. Thank true god for men and women who have courage to stand up against the real enemy: war, evil, injustice, the capitalist ruling class. We all join you, Janet, in new dedication to

enlightening our fellow slaves with the message of the *Militant*.

Rev Shank
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Protest Peltier frame-up

On May 21, some 300 people joined a march and rally at the Washington state capitol in Olympia to demand President Clinton release Leonard Peltier from federal prison.

Peltier is a Native American activist who was framed up and railroaded to prison on charges of killing an FBI agent in 1975. The cop frame-up grew out of violent attacks by government agents on Native American activists at the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota.

Peltier has been imprisoned for 18 years. Last December he was allowed to appear before the U.S. Parole Commission — but the commission denied his request for parole, telling him to come back in 15 years for another chance at a hearing!

The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee is organizing a weekend of protests in Washington, D.C., June 25-26. For more information on the frame-up and upcoming protests, contact the defense committee at P.O. Box 583, Lawrence, KS 66044. Phone (913) 842-5774.

Supporters can also write Peltier in prison: Leonard Peltier, No. 89637-132, P.O. Box 1000, Leavenworth, KS 66048.

Harvey McArthur
Seattle, Washington

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Youth in Britain protest racist cops

BY TONY HUNT
AND JULIET PORTCHMOUTH

SHEFFIELD, England — "Under attack, we fight back" was among the chants of some 500 young people demonstrating outside Attercliffe police station here May 16. The picket was called by the Darnall Defence Campaign in response to charges brought against a number of young people, both Black and white, from the Darnall area of Sheffield.

The arrests took place May 2-3 following attacks on residents of Darnall by racist thugs from another area of the city. The police took no action against the thugs but arrested those who were the targets of the attacks. The young men arrested, including a 13 year old, claim the police were racially abusive and some youths were physically assaulted by the cops from Attercliffe station.

This was not an isolated case, "all the

coppers are racist," one protester said. "They're always sticking two fingers up at us, giving racist abuse and trying to provoke us." Another said his car is stopped by police nearly every day.

Two other youths described being beaten and arrested by the police and thrown into a cell following a robbery in the area; they were released without charges the following day.

The majority of the participants at the picket were young men from the Pakistani and Bengali communities in and around Darnall. There were also a number of white youths involved, a few young women, immigrants from the Caribbean and Somalia, and elders from the local mosques. Most demonstrators were under 20.

Nissar Ahmed Jaffar, a leader of the Darnall Defence Campaign and one of those arrested, addressed the crowd. "This is not

a matter for color, this is not an Asian matter," he said. "We are here today to explain that we can live in harmony. They [the police] are inciting racism in our community. We want them to stop, and stop now."

Jaffar said the campaign is demanding that the charges against the arrested youth be dropped and that an independent investigation be made into the actions of the Attercliffe police. "Racist policing isn't just happening in Darnall," he said. "It's going on all over Sheffield."

Despite warnings of police violence reported in the local press, the picket ensued peacefully. The organizers won an agreement to marshall the demonstration without police involvement. Jaffar urged the youth to "keep a cool head — we hurt them more if it's peaceful."

The local media has portrayed the events in

Darnall as arising from "community tension" between Asian and white youths. In discussions in local factories and on the streets of Darnall, some workers who are white defended the police action. "It was a drunken brawl," said one. "The police aren't racist."

Others weren't so sure. Some who lived in villages around Sheffield, where there had once been coal pits, were familiar with police brutality because of their experiences in the 1984-85 miners' strike.

Hearings for the arrested youths were held June 1 at the Sheffield magistrates court. Meanwhile, a noisy but organized demonstration took place outside. Some defendants had their charges dropped. Others, including Jaffar, now face new, more serious charges. The remaining defendants all pleaded not guilty. Their cases have been adjourned until June 30.

ANC activist speaks on S. Africa in Minneapolis

BY DAMON TINNON

MINNEAPOLIS — Members of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee (SYOC) and the Student Anti-Apartheid Network at the University of Minnesota organized a visit of an African National Congress Youth League member, Kovin Naidoo, here May 27. Naidoo, who is currently a student in Philadelphia, was able to meet with students and workers to give a firsthand report on the elections and discuss the unfolding revolution in South Africa.

Three members of SYOC and the South African youth started the day by holding discussions with International Association of Machinists (IAM) shop stewards and local members at Northwest Airlines. Naidoo discussed with unionists the role played by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in advancing the revolutionary struggle in South Africa. "The South African workers, using the strike tool, helped to advance the struggle throughout the negotiation process," said Naidoo. "The trade unionist in our country became a lethal weapon to effect change."

The unionists described some of their fights against the company. Pointing to the Eastern Airlines strike a few years ago, one worker said, "The IAM was able to fight before and can fight again."

Some rank-and-file workers expressed interest in going to South Africa to talk and work with trade unionists there. They agreed to work on this and to explore concrete possibilities.

Following this exchange, Naidoo gave a

talk at the University of Minnesota. Throughout his presentation, he focused on the role that working people in South Africa played in bringing down apartheid. "If we didn't build ourselves on the strength of the masses, we would have lost a long time ago," Naidoo said.

Of some 18 students in attendance, several raised questions about the negotiation process. One student asked if negotiations had been the best way to proceed in South Africa. "When we were young, we all dreamed of marching on Pretoria with AK-47s, but our movement was built on the people, not on some esoteric, intellectual ideas," Naidoo said. "So we had no qualms about sitting at the negotiation table. During the negotiations, the ANC fought, the youth fought, COSATU fought. Thus, we never relied solely on negotiations."

The ANC's nonracial approach was questioned. Students wondered how the ANC could work with its past oppressors. "We had to get past the race question," Naidoo said, explaining that the oppression of Blacks in South Africa was a product of class society, not just racism.

Naidoo was asked if there would be a call for a recount of the vote due to charges of cheating. "If we decided to have a recount, we would have had been prepared to do it over the deaths of our people. Our people are tired of violence. This is why the ANC celebrated when Inkatha joined the elections," Naidoo responded.

Naidoo finished by saying, "The libera-



Filipino activists in Manila escorted international guests to attend a May 31-June 4 conference on repression in East Timor. Previously, the participants were barred from the event by President Fidel Ramos, under pressure from the Indonesian government. Indonesia annexed East Timor after a bloody invasion in 1976 where up to 200,000 people died from war and famine.

tion of South Africa was not based on the righteous sacrifice of a few but on the humble sacrifice of the immense majority."

SYOC members talked to students at the meeting about their organization and invited them to a socialist class series organized by the Student Political Organizing Committee. Sev-

eral expressed interest in the study group.

The following day, Naidoo had an interview with a local Black radio station, KMOJ.

Damon Tinnon is a member of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee steering committee.

Socialist youth host reception in L.A.

BY VANESSA KNAPTON

LOS ANGELES — More than 50 people crowded into a downtown bar and grill for a reception sponsored by the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee (SYOC) of Los Angeles after the large immigrant rights demonstration here May 28. (See article on front page.) The audience included individuals from various organizations who gave greetings. Many new young people came directly from the march.

Ken Riley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for governor of California and a member of SYOC, addressed the gathering. He urged participants to get active in his campaign, which offers a working-class alternative to the social ills bred by capitalism, such as immigrant bashing, the resurgence of fascist currents, and war.

Tami Peterson, cochair of the Socialist Workers Campaign Committee in Utah and a leader of the new socialist youth organizing committee, asked young people present to join SYOC. Roger Calero, a leading activist in the Los Angeles socialist youth group, chaired the meeting.

Words of solidarity for the socialist campaigners were extended from a representative of a socialist youth group in Mexico, a Nicaraguan who was formerly a member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, and a political exile from Guatemala. More than a

dozen young people signed up to find out more information about SYOC's activities.

Vanessa Knapton is a member of the Socialist Youth Organizing Committee.

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